

WHEREAS, the United States spends \$408 billion or approximately 2% of our national gross domestic product to grow, process, and dispose of food that is never eaten and reducing food waste can reduce this economic loss; and

WHEREAS, reducing food waste can help preserve our natural resources as food waste uses 21% of the country's freshwater, 19% of our fertilizer, 18% of our cropland, and 24% of our landfill volume; and

WHEREAS, activities to reduce food waste can provide economic opportunities for entrepreneurs and farmers to sell otherwise unsellable products, and for the private composting industry to grow; and

WHEREAS, up to 35% of all food produced is thrown away rather than eaten. Safe and nutritious food that is currently thrown away could help feed hungry people; and

WHEREAS, everyone benefits from better utilizing food resources; and

WHEREAS, a family of four can save an average of \$1,500 on uneaten food annually; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have a special role in educating their communities to reduce, recover, and recycle food; and

WHEREAS, through the City's Vision 2030 process, sustainability and the environment continue to be highlighted as priorities by our community; and

WHEREAS, we have the opportunity to save shared resources, like land, water, and energy, used to produce and transport food that ultimately goes uneaten; and

WHEREAS, food in landfills decomposes slowly, releasing methane gas, which contributes to climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek, Florida, hereby proclaims the week of April 1 - 7, 2024, as

“FOOD WASTE PREVENTION WEEK”

and encourages all residents to commit to taking steps to reduce food waste in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto
set our hands and caused the seal of
the City of Coconut Creek to be affixed
this 14th day of March 2024.**