WHEREAS, alcohol and drug abuse affects individuals, families and communities across the nation with nearly one in four children living with a parent or caregiver with a substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that visible, unified prevention education efforts by community members be launched to reduce the demand for drugs and prevent substance use before it starts; and

WHEREAS, the annual national Red Ribbon Campaign, sponsored by the nonprofit organization National Family Partnership, offers citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities and is celebrated in communities across the nation from October 23^{rd} through October 31^{st} ; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Port Parks & Recreation Department operates the Drug-Free Youth program, known as D-Fy, a dynamic community initiative for North Port students in grades 6 through 12 who are committed to making responsible decisions and living a lifestyle free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Port is proud to partner with businesses, organizations and individuals who share our commitment to supporting teens in making positive, drug-free choices.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 23rd through October 31st, 2025 as

"Red Ribbon Week"

and encourage our community to demonstrate their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles by wearing red ribbons and supporting drug prevention activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and Seal of the City of North Port, Florida, to be affixed this 2nd day of October 2025.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

Phil Stokes, Mayor Pete Emrich, Vice-Mayor Barbara Langdon, Commissioner David Duval, Commissioner Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner **ATTEST** Heather Faust, City Clerk