

Proclamation



City of North Port

WHEREAS, in 2016 the North Port Friends of Wildlife proposed to the City of North Port that there be a day set aside for recognition of the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*); and

WHEREAS, April 10th was officially adopted by the Gopher Tortoise Council as Gopher Tortoise Day; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, Gopher Tortoises are found in parts of all 67 counties and are frequently encountered in neighborhoods, along roadways, and in many of Florida's public parks and forests; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise has been living on the Earth for 500,000 to 2 million years; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise today is, in the State of Florida, listed as Threatened, and in parts of the U.S., is Federally listed as Threatened; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species because they dig burrows; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise's burrow protects more than 360 other commensal species, some of which are also listed as Threatened; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise's habitat needs protection; and

WHEREAS, having Gopher Tortoise and other species in our area, helps to sustain the area's ecology and provides man with a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2022, as

“Gopher Tortoise Day”

and urge all citizens to help protect this species through education and awareness.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seal of the City of North Port, Florida, to be affixed this 7th day of April 2022.

ATTEST

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Pete Emrich, Mayor

Barbara Langdon, Vice Mayor

Alice White, Commissioner

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City of North Port

Debbie McDowell, Commissioner

Jill Luke, Commissioner