



WHEREAS, January 2017 is recognized as National Mentoring Month during which we celebrate the vital role mentors play in providing crucial support and guidance to our young adults as they grow and develop into our next generation of citizens and leaders; and

WHEREAS, first established in 1995 in Florida, Take Stock in Children provides at-risk and economically disadvantaged students extensive support, motivation and accountability to ensure they graduate from high school and pursue their postsecondary education goals; and

WHEREAS, in Monroe County Florida, the non-profit Take Stock in Children is the premier scholarship and mentoring organization which has served more than 800 students; and

WHEREAS, Take Stock in Children Monroe collaborates with community leaders and business partners, as well as staff and key stakeholders to provide equal educational opportunities to all children despite their socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, the organization promises scholars the support of a caring mentor, in-school support, college readiness services provided by college success coaches, and a college tuition scholarship upon high school graduation; and

WHEREAS, during National Mentoring Month, Take Stock in Children Monroe commends and honors its 270 volunteer mentors for the assistance, advice, and guidance they provide during weekly mentor sessions, making a positive difference in the students' lives and improving their self-confidence and belief that a college degree is attainable; and,

WHEREAS, the work of Take Stock Monroe mentors results in the high school graduation of 100% of the Take Stock scholars, and the matriculation of 96% in post-secondary education, well over the national averages; and

WHEREAS, the high level performance of its mentors has rewarded Take Stock Monroe with the highest Gold Level designation for its student services, support, and mentoring; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, and Sam Kaufman, District II Commissioner do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2017, as:

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN MONTH

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United, I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors to participate fittingly in this observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 8th of January, 2017.

Mayor Craig Cates