



Proclamation

*Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida*

A PROCLAMATION SUPPORTING THE HEALTHIEST WEIGHT FLORIDA INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, Manatee County Government supports policies that focus on healthy weight, health and wellness, and healthier lifestyles in all communities; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health has launched a healthy weight campaign known as "Healthiest Weight Florida," a public-private collaboration to help Florida's children and adults make informed, consistent choices about healthy eating and active living; this program has been embraced by individuals and businesses in many cities, counties, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the State Surgeon General has launched the 2016 Healthy Weight Community Champion Recognition Program that will recognize local governments and active municipalities (cities, towns, and villages) and 67 counties that implement policies to help people become more physically active and improve nutrition; Best practice policies implemented by communities will be recognized on January 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, poor nutritional choices and a lack of physical activity are linked to overweight and obesity which increase the risk of diabetes, cancer, heart disease, liver disease, hypertension, and other health conditions; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County officials believe there are important, long-term community benefits to be gained by encouraging healthy lifestyles, including a decrease in overweight and obesity in Florida's adults and children and the associated negative health related impacts; and

WHEREAS, community partners can work together to ensure that there are safe places for residents to be active, such as in parks, ball fields, pools, gyms, and recreation centers; and

WHEREAS, access to healthy foods has a direct impact on the overall health of our community and planning for fresh food, open space, sidewalks, and parks should be a priority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, challenge all local governments, businesses, students, parents and all residents to participate in the Healthy Weight Florida campaign to foster healthy weight and improve overall health, improve job and school performance, and decrease work and school absenteeism.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 1st day of December 2015.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Betsy Benac, Chairman

**ATTEST: Angelina Colonnese
Clerk of the Circuit Court**
