**Breastfeeding Support Week 2018 Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the first week of August is recognized as World Breastfeeding Week- a global initiative to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and its important and positive long-term effects on the growth and development of infants; and

WHEREAS, Florida laws permit mothers to breastfeed in any location, public or private, irrespective of whether the nipple of the mother's breasts are covered during or incidental to the breastfeeding and specify that the act of breastfeeding shall not be considered public indecency; and

WHEREAS, national estimates suggest that if 90 percent of U.S. babies were breastfed exclusively for six months, the nation would save ~13 billion per year in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is recognized by the Florida West Coast Breastfeeding Task Force, the Florida Department of Health and major medical organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the National Association of WIC Directors, UNICEF and WHO as the preferred method of infant feeding; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding promotes overall health, growth and development, and helps to prevent infections during infancy, as well as asthma, obesity, diabetes and other chronic illnesses in childhood and later adulthood; and

WHEREAS, mothers benefit from breastfeeding as it not only advances postpartum recovery, but decreases the risk of ovarian, uterine and endometrial cancers, as well as anemia, diabetes and osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, women with infants and children are one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. labor force, yet women cite returning to work as one of the primary reasons for not continuing to breastfeed to six months of age; and

WHEREAS, accommodations for breastfeeding at work, protected under the law, benefit not only women and children, but employers as well as there are cost savings in terms of health care including less illness among breastfed children, higher morale and a stronger sense of loyalty among female employees, and greater awareness of a positive, family-friendly image in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Florida West Coast Breastfeeding Task Force and Florida Department of Health recognizes it is vital for families to make informed choices about the health and care of infants and supports increased efforts by hospital staff, providers, employers and all Floridians to encourage breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, infant nutrition should be considered a public health issue; and

WHEREAS, World Breastfeeding Week 2018 is a time to recognize past achievements and future endeavors and to celebrate the 2018 theme, "Breastfeeding: Foundation of Life;"

NOW, THEREFORE, we, Commissioners of HERNANDO COUNTY, do hereby proclaim the week of August 1-7,2018, as

in Breastfeeding Support Week and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of THE COUNTY

to be affixed at LOCATION, DATE, 2018.