

**In Recognition of  
Lights on Afterschool Day**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving our students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

**WHEREAS,** the Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation’s Fit Kidz Club has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

**WHEREAS,** *Lights On Afterschool*, a national celebration of afterschool programs on October 17, 2013, promotes the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families and their communities; and

**WHEREAS,** more than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school; and

**WHEREAS,** many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Fort Lauderdale urges its citizens to ensure that every child has access to a safe, engaging place where the lights are on after school, and the City enthusiastically endorses *Lights On Afterschool* and is committed to innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE,** as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **October 17, 2013** as:

**Lights on Afterschool Day**

in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

**DATED this,** the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2013.

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**Mayor John P. “Jack” Seiler**

