

Presented in Recognition of

**Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk
November 1, 2014**

- WHEREAS,** scleroderma is a chronic, progressive autoimmune disease like rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and multiple sclerosis which affects over 300,000 people in the United States; the disease causes the body's immune system to attack its own tissues; and
- WHEREAS,** the disease, which literally means "hardskin," can cause thickening and tightening of the skin as well as serious damage to a number of organs including the lungs, heart, kidneys, esophagus, and gastrointestinal tract; and
- WHEREAS,** scleroderma occurs three to four times more often in women than in men. Of all the autoimmune diseases affecting over 50 million Americans, scleroderma is the most fatal and least recognized disease. There is no known cause or cure; and
- WHEREAS,** the Scleroderma Foundation helps people with the disease and their families cope through support programs, physician referrals and more. The Foundation promotes public awareness about scleroderma and is the largest private funder of peer-reviewed research awarding more than \$1 million annually; and
- WHEREAS,** on Saturday, November 1, 2014, the Scleroderma Foundation of Southeast Florida will host the 11th annual "Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk" at Tradewinds Park in Coconut Creek in an effort to raise much needed funds for research to improve treatment and discover the cause and cure of scleroderma.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **Saturday, November 1, 2014** as:

Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk Day

in the City of Fort Lauderdale and do urge our citizens to participate in activities that will bring awareness to the causes and effective treatment of scleroderma.

DATED this, the 21st day of October, 2014.

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

