

*City of Fort Lauderdale*  
*Honored Founder*

**PROCLAMATION HONORING  
DR. JAMES FRANKLIN SISTRUNK  
AS HONORED FOUNDER FOR 2016**

**WHEREAS,** *Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk was born in Midway, Florida on December 25, 1891 and was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Berry Sistrunk; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Dr. Sistrunk received his early education at Fessenden Academy, a private boarding school for African-American students in Ocala, Florida. He earned his undergraduate degree at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and, in 1919, graduated with honors from Meharry Medical College also in Nashville; and*

**WHEREAS,** *After serving in World War I, Dr. Sistrunk relocated to Dunnellon, Florida to practice medicine. He moved to Fort Lauderdale in April 1922 and began a long and illustrious career serving the medical needs of Fort Lauderdale's growing African-American community; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Dr. Sistrunk was a qualified surgeon and highly respected as an excellent diagnostician, yet he was not allowed to perform surgical procedures in white hospitals. Until 1938, Dr. Sistrunk was restricted to delivering babies and is credited with delivering more than 5,000 babies during his 44 years of practice. Dr. Sistrunk also made house calls throughout Broward County to provide medical care and treatment to those who were financially challenged; and*

**WHEREAS,** *In 1938, Dr. Sistrunk partnered with Dr. Von D. Mizell to establish Fort Lauderdale's first medical facility for African-Americans. Working diligently, the two doctors involved the community in fundraising efforts and, shortly afterward, Provident Hospital opened on N.W. 6th Street at the location that, today, serves as Provident Park; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Dr. Sistrunk served as Chief of Staff of Provident Hospital for decades and, as a tribute to his service, the hospital's Pediatrics Ward was named the James Franklin Sistrunk Children's Pavilion; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Dr. Sistrunk was also an active staff member of Broward General Hospital, worked diligently with doctors Mizell, R.L. Brown and Calvin H. Shirley to break racial barriers in local medicine, and he practiced medicine until shortly before his death in March of 1966 at the age of 75; and*

**WHEREAS,** *In 1971, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission unanimously approved renaming N.W. 6 Street in honor of Dr. Sistrunk and, in 2013, unanimously approved extending the name Sistrunk Boulevard east to Federal Highway; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Known as "kindly old Doc Sistrunk," the memory of Dr. Sistrunk lives on today in the hearts and minds of generations of Fort Lauderdaleians for the thousands of lives he touched, causes he supported, and contributions he made to the progress and advancement of our City;*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:**


**Section 1:** *That Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk is hereby selected and honored as Honored Founder of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2016 in recognition of his many accomplishments and valuable contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale and that the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale hereby publicly recognizes and acknowledges these achievements and contributions and does hereby express its heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Sistrunk.*

**Section 2:** *That a plaque honoring Dr. Sistrunk as Honored Founder of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2016 shall be placed in the lobby of Fort Lauderdale City Hall.*

**Section 3:** *That a parchment copy of this Proclamation shall be furnished by the City Clerk to the family of Dr. Sistrunk as a further token of the sincere gratitude and appreciation of the City of Fort Lauderdale.*

**DATED this,** *the 5th day of October 2016.*



  
Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler  
