

City of Gainesville, Florida 050603

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Alexa Ostolaza has been named the March of Dimes National Youth Ambassador for 2006 and will represent the city of Gainesville as she travels for the March of Dimes throughout the Nation sharing her premature birth story; and

WHEREAS, premature birth is the number one killer of newborns in America with nearly a half million babies born prematurely every year; and

WHEREAS, the number of premature births has risen 29% in the past 20 years, including 26,725 in Florida, and 307 babies born prematurely in Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, premature birth takes an enormous toll on families and costs society billions of dollars every year while most people are unaware of this common, serious and costly problem; and

WHEREAS, during November, landmarks across the nation will be lit pink and blue to raise awareness and to symbolize hope for premature babies and their parents; and

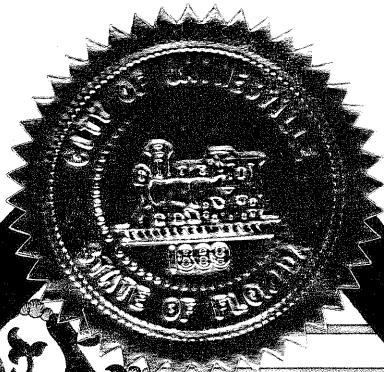
WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is leading a national effort to save babies from premature birth by funding research to find the causes of premature birth, and by supporting local programs that offer hope and help to families with a baby in intensive care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2005 as

Alexa Ostolaza and Prematurity Awareness Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in support of March of Dimes efforts to fund research and programs to find the causes of prematurity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 7th day of November, A.D., 2005.



Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor