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City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Thomas D. Bussing

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the enslavement of any human is one of the most abhorrent and destructive deeds conceivable; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20 million Blacks were enslaved for almost 300 years in what is now known as the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, in 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation conferred liberty to approximately 3,120,000 slaves and in 1865, the 13th Amendment ratified abolishing slavery throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery, was originated in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, to commemorate the freedom and achievement of Blacks; and

WHEREAS, the celebrations that followed the reading of the proclamation by General Gordon Granger began a tradition that has lasted over one hundred years, and today is hosted in cities across America and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville wishes to acknowledge the significant contributions made by Blacks in all fields to the City of Gainesville, State of Florida, United States of America and to the world at large.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas D. Bussing, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2001 as

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION DAY 2001

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me as we recall the past, rejoice in the ending of this destructive system, and celebrate the explosion of the talent, inventiveness and entrepreneurship of our Black citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 11th day of June, A.D., 2001.

Thomas D. Bussing
Mayor