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01/11/99

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Paula M. DeLaney

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Alachua County Chapter of the Florida Council of the Blind is a consumer/advocacy membership organization for people who are blind and visually impaired; and

WHEREAS, the month of January of each year has been nationally designated as "Braille Literacy Month"; and

WHEREAS, blind and visually impaired children and adults must be afforded the opportunity to achieve literacy so that they can compete in employment, succeed in education and live independent, fruitful lives; and

WHEREAS, recording devices, the Optacon and other reading machines, and computer screen access programs have enabled blind individuals to gain access to a wide variety of printed material, but cannot be a replacement for a medium that allows an individual to read and write independently; and

WHEREAS, Braille - the system of dots used by the blind to read and write - is a truly elegant and effective medium of literacy; and the teaching of Braille has been woefully neglected over the past several decades; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Alachua County Chapter of the Florida Council of the Blind that school-age students and adults who are blind and visually impaired are taught Braille if it is the most appropriate medium to provide literacy; and

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WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the City of Gainesville, Florida, to further heighten public awareness of the importance of Braille literacy among children and adults who are blind and of the great need for the production of Braille documents to match the wide variety of commonly available print documents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paula M. DeTaney, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim January, 1999 as

BRAILLE LITERACY MONTH

and urge the citizens of Gainesville to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 23rd day of December, A.D., 1998.


Paula M. DeTaney
Mayor