

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama and as a young woman, dedicated herself to service to her community and to the local NAACP, was a model citizen, faithful church member and loyal friend; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was an advocate for education and community involvement in order to improve the lives of African-Americans in the segregated South; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks, through her tireless efforts and unwavering principles, refused to allow herself and others to be treated as second-class citizens in America because of the color of their skin; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 1955, Mrs. Parks displayed quiet courage as well as dignity on a Montgomery, Alabama city bus when she refused to give her seat to a white passenger, as directed by a local ordinance, and was removed from the bus and arrested; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks' actions led to a city wide bus boycott, which then led to the beginnings of the modern day Civil Rights Movement that transformed the nation and world, and led to the emergence of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a national leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner; and

WHEREAS, racism, prejudice and hate continue to persist today in our nation and society, and in order to give due respect and honor to Rosa Parks, the recipient of countless awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and to honor the legacy of Mrs. Parks, who would have turned 100 years old on February 4, 2013, as well the rich legacy she left behind at her passing on October 24, 2005, all citizens are invited to recognize and participate in "Rosa Parks Day".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2019 as

Rosa Parks Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me and acknowledge the importance in celebrating this year the centennial of Rosa Parks' birth, and the contributions she has made in helping preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people and as a nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 16th day of September, A.D., 2019.



Lauren Poe
Mayor