

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Paula M. DeLaney

04/09/01

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## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, America's victims rights discipline has had a powerful impact in educating our nation about the devastating effects of crime and victimization, and the need to provide support and services to individuals and communities hurt by crime; and

WHEREAS, victimization rates in the United States are the lowest recorded since the inception of the National Crime Victimization Survey in 1973; however, there were nearly 29 million people in America who were victimized by crime last year, including 6208 in Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, the year 2001 marks the 25th anniversary of the use of Victim Impact Statements, which help our criminal and juvenile justice systems better understand the psychological, financial and physical impact of crime on victims and holds offenders accountable for their criminal and delinquent actions; and

WHEREAS, the voices of our nation's victims have had a powerful effect in changing laws, policies and attitudes to promote a victims' rights and services, and encouraging every person in America to take a stand and help crime victims; and our nation's commitment to crime victim assistance has over 10,000 system and community based programs in place to provide help and hope to victims of crime; and

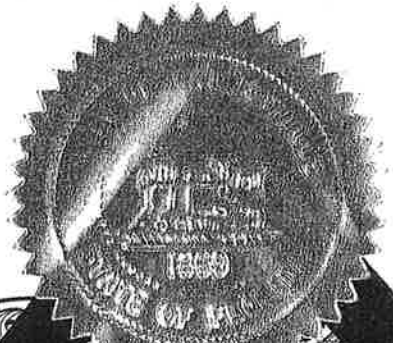
WHEREAS, important partnerships have been formed between criminal and juvenile justice agencies, allied professionals, victim services, and the private sector to ensure that crime victims are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paula M. DeLaney, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April 22-28, 2001 as

## CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in continuing to strive for justice and compassion for crime victims as individuals, as communities, and as a nation dedicated to justice for all.

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



*Paula M. DeLaney*  
Paula M. DeLaney  
Mayor