

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there are more than 30,000 suicides annually in the nation, and in Alachua County there were 28, 31 and 37 suicides and 13, 7 and 10 homicides in 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively; and

WHEREAS, more law enforcement officers die by suicide than in the line of duty; suicide ranks third behind accidents and homicide as a cause of death among young (15-24) Americans; and, suicide rates among the elderly are highest for those who are divorced or widowed; and

WHEREAS, there are no official statistics on attempted suicide, however, it is generally estimated that there are at least 8 to 20 attempts for each death by suicide; and

WHEREAS, while suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, the stigma associated with mental illness works against suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, one in six Americans suffers from depression and yet this illness remains hidden because the stigma associated with suicide further traumatizes those people who lose a loved one by suicide.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 30, 2005 as

## *Suicide Prevention Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in working to prevent suicide through public awareness and education, eliminating the associated stigma, and serving as a resource to those touched by suicide -- remembering that 80% of the people seeking treatment for depression are treated successfully.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 24th day of February, A.D., 2005.

  
*Pegeen Hanrahan*  
Pegeen Hanrahan  
Mayor