

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout an almost 30-year career with the City of Gainesville that began on September 22, 1975, Richard F. Williams served in every division of our fire service organization: fire prevention, disaster management, emergency medical service, operations (including command of major fire and hazmat incidents), training, and hazardous materials response; and

WHEREAS, Chief Williams served as Firefighter, Driver/Operator, Lieutenant, District Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, and in December 1992 was named Fire Chief, the highest rank at Gainesville Fire Rescue; Richard has also served as the Interim Director of Gainesville's Facilities Management, Parks and Streets Departments, and the Regional Transit System; and

WHEREAS, Chief Williams completed the Harvard University Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government, the Executive Fire Officer and Command/Staff programs of the U.S. National Fire Academy, the Police Academy at the Santa Fe Community College Institute of Public Safety, and maintained his certifications as a Firefighter, Paramedic and Municipal Fire Inspector; and

WHEREAS, Chief Williams' talent is the transformation of government service in ways that increase employee motivation, relationships with customers, and measurable results, while at the same time building community as a welcoming and safe place; daily he challenges his staff to exceed professional standards and citizen's expectations; and

WHEREAS, through the use of technology and positive human relations, including diversity initiatives, personnel development and community partnerships, Gainesville Fire Rescue demonstrates a superlative blend of teamwork, technical knowledge, and citizen care; the Florida Fire Chief's Association recognized Chief Williams as the 2004 "Florida Fire Chief of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, Chief Williams also volunteered his time to community organizations such as Gainesville Sunrise Rotary, Southeast Burn Foundation, United Way of Gainesville, 1st Credit Union of Gainesville and the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, his many friends and co-workers will miss his affable personality, remarkable acumen for visionary leadership, and his contagious zest for living life to the fullest; in addition, the City Commission wishes to express its sincere appreciation for Chief Williams' outstanding contributions to our community and its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2005 as

Richard F. Williams Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in recognizing Chief Williams for his contributions and leadership, and to wish him much happiness and success in his future endeavors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 28th day of January, A.D., 2005.



Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor