

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a motor neuron disease that leads to the progressive death of nerve cells, causing muscles to deteriorate and become non-functioning. This typically results in a gradual paralysis of all motor function, including speech and ability to breathe unassisted; and

WHEREAS, across the US approximately 30,000 people are living with this incurable disorder, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and 5,000 new cases occur each year. Currently, with no medical solution available, average lifespan with the disease is between three and five years after the diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, though the disease is rare, it has a profound impact on those suffering with it, and it affects many individuals in Gainesville. The ALS Association, as well as many research institutions such as the University of Florida, are leading the fight to find treatment and eventually a cure against this devastating condition; and

WHEREAS, educating individuals in this community through this proclamation allows people to gain a broader understanding of how they can support medical research and individuals impacted, as well as take part in local and national activism.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim May, 2017 as

## *ALS Awareness Month*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me to become active and aware of this condition.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D., 2017.

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Lauren Poe  
Mayor