

City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day, established in 1988 serves to unite people around the world to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity; promote advancements in treatment; and

WHEREAS, HIV can be eliminated through prevention and education, as we recognize that Alachua County ranks 56th out of 67 counties for the highest rate of new HIV cases in Florida, with 1,050 people living with HIV/AIDS and approximately 37 new diagnoses annually. World AIDS Day serves as a reminder to reflect on the people that we have lost and those we hold dear who are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, observance of this day provides an opportunity for our community, faith-based organizations, social service agencies, businesses, academic institutions, and community organizations, that are critically important to prevention, to be part of the fight against the stigma surrounding HIV; and

WHEREAS, the stigma around HIV impedes testing, the negotiation of safe practices, and the needed support of those living with HIV we encourage everyone to join in the "Judge Not!" movement to end stigma in our houses of worship and communities; and

WHEREAS, one in seven people in the U.S. is not aware that they are living with HIV we acknowledge World AIDS Day, as a day to normalize HIV testing as a part of annual preventative care by encouraging people to get tested for HIV, know their status, and get linked to care and treatment; and

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS-related stigma remains a major barrier to prevention, testing, treatment, and support services locally; we recognize the local efforts of area service organizations: Let's Talk About It (LTAI) a support and advocacy group of women living with HIV, Gainesville Area AIDS Project (GAAP), Peers Empowering Peers (PEP), Black AIDS Services and Education (BASE, Inc.), and WellFlorida as well as other local organizations which are united in their efforts to bring together advocates living with HIV and their allies, to build a pathway to a stigma-free community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2020 as

World AIDS Day, Judge Not!

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in recognizing these organizations and community members living with HIV/AIDS as they mobilize to reduce the stigma around HIV testing in order to prevent future HIV transmissions, diminishing HIV-related mortality and improving quality of life for persons living with HIV.

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 November, A.D., 2020.



Lauren Poe
Mayor

