

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, stigma around HIV impedes testing, the negotiation of safe practices and the needed support of those living with HIV, "Judge Not" by being tested annually; and

WHEREAS, National HIV Testing Day, established in 1995, serves 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, given that 1 in 7 people in the U.S. is not aware that they are living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, the burden of disease incidence is disproportionately greater in Southern States, constituting 52% of the new HIV diagnoses in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Alachua County ranks 11th out of 67 counties in the state for the highest rate of new HIV cases, with 1,069 people living with HIV/AIDS and approximately 56 new diagnoses annually; and

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS related stigma remains a major barrier to prevention, testing, treatment, and support services; we recognize the local efforts of area service organizations: Let's Talk About it, Gainesville Area AIDS Project (GAAP), Peers Empowering Peers (PEP), Black AIDS Services and Education (BASE, Inc.), 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; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville recognizes and applauds these organizations, health departments and community members living with HIV/AIDS as they mobilize to reduce the stigma around HIV testing in order to prevent future HIV transmission, diminish HIV-related mortality and improve quality of life for persons living with HIV.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim June 27, 2019 as

Judge Not! Get Tested. National HIV Testing Day.

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me and bring awareness to this day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 11th day of June, A.D., 2019.



Lauren Poe
Mayor