

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, youth are central to the growth and continuation of a safe and healthy community. It is a goal of this administration for our communities to be safe; and

WHEREAS, dating violence affects all Alachua County youth, crossing all racial, social, religious, ethnic, geographic, and economic groups; and

WHEREAS, one in four adolescents reports verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual violence each year, and one in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, dating violence is associated with unhealthy sexual behaviors that can lead to unintended pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases, and HIV infections; and

WHEREAS, abusive dating experiences during adolescence may disrupt normal development of self-esteem and body image; and

WHEREAS, adolescents in abusive relationships often carry these unhealthy patterns of violence into future relationships; and

WHEREAS, many of these cases can be prevented by helping adolescents develop skills for healthy relationships with others and this type of social change can only be addressed through the collective effort of committed community members.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim February, 2010 as

## *Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month*

in the City of Gainesville, and invite all our citizens to make a difference in one adolescent who suffers from the pain of teen dating violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D., 2010.



*Pegeen Hanrahan*  
Pegeen Hanrahan  
Mayor