

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Americans represent 5% of the world's population, but generate 30% of the world's refuse, discarding about 33.6 million tons of plastic each year, but only recycling 6.5 percent of it; and

WHEREAS, plastic may take thousands of years to fully break down, and can leak pollutants into our water and soil; and

WHEREAS, 236,000 tons of microplastics, plastic particles less than 5mm across, end up in waterways and oceans where they are introduced to the food chain and can attract and retain toxic chemicals such as bisphenol A (BPA) and pesticides that bio-accumulate in our food; and

WHEREAS, toxic plastic additives have been shown to migrate from containers and plastic wrap into our food; and

WHEREAS, 80% of marine debris comes from land-based sources, primarily trash or litter in urban runoff, and an estimated one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die from plastics in their environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville has recognized the need to take action passing a ban on single use plastic bags and polystyrene containers, and have plans to also ban plastic straws; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo, along with several nonprofit allies working on plastic waste, will be hosting Plastic Free EcoChallenge, a series of events for the community to join together in order to take local action against the global plastic pollution problem; and

WHEREAS, plastic Free EcoChallenge encourages participants to "Choose to Refuse" plastic packaging and reduce single use disposable plastics, reuse plastics where possible, and recycle what cannot be reused; and

WHEREAS, limiting plastic consumption effectively reduces Gainesville's contribution to Climate Change but also symbolically conveys the larger trend of a shift towards the use of renewable resources and green living.

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

Plastic Free Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in living plastic free.

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