

City of Gainesville, Florida  
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on January 16, 1920 in Washington D.C. on the campus of Howard University by five enlightened, collegiate women. Its current membership includes more than 125,000 college-educated, dynamic, community service driven, diverse and professional women; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 1951, five great Zeta women of courage: Annie McGhee, Cora Roberson, Gladys Alexander, Julia Harper and Wilma Holloway chartered the Delta Sigma Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, which is listed in the local and national registries as the first historically Black Greek letter organization established in Gainesville and Alachua County, Florida. Moreover, these women are also credited with becoming the first to institute a historically Black Greek letter sorority at the University of Florida, when they chartered the Mu Epsilon chapter in 1974; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with their founding principles of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood, the women of Delta Sigma Zeta Chapter have worked diligently for the past 68 years to make significant contributions to the vitality of our community by providing valuable services and support programs. Whether it be through awarding scholarships to high school graduates, "adopting" local elementary schools, volunteering with the elderly, or partnering with March of Dimes and the American Cancer Society to raise funds and awareness, the Gainesville Zetas continuously demonstrate they are community-conscious and action-oriented; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Sigma Zeta members are local trailblazers and called to advocate for social justice for all people. They have created a robust social action platform and work with perseverance in areas of voter engagement and education, community empowerment, and equity especially for those who have been disenfranchised. As further testament to their passion for helping other people excel, they promote prenatal care and healthy babies through the Stork's Nest of Gainesville - a program to educate and support pregnant women and new mothers; and

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated has established a powerful legacy of addressing critical issues and exacting positive change in communities globally, and the members of the Delta Sigma Zeta Chapter remain steadfast in their commitment to empower, uplift, and serve our community locally.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2020 as

*Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Centennial Celebration Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in honoring Zeta Phi Beta and thanking the sorority for the many contributions to this community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 18th day of December, A.D., 2019.

  
Lauren Poe  
Mayor

