

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day (WAD) was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1988, and World AIDS Day serves to focus global attention on the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and

WHEREAS, observance of this day provides an opportunity for governments, national AIDS programs, faith organizations, community organizations and individuals to demonstrate the importance of the fight against HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, with an estimated 38.6 million people worldwide living with HIV at the end of 2005, and more than 25 million people having died of AIDS since 1981, December 1 serves to remind everyone that action makes a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, we should be reminded that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. An estimated 1,039,000 to 1,185,000 HIV- positive individuals live in the U.S., with approximately 40,000 new infections occurring every year--the U.S., like other nations around the world is deeply affected by HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Americans see HIV/AIDS as an important health issue affecting their communities and HIV/AIDS remains one of the greatest health threats facing our nation; AIDS challenges our extended communities to find new reservoirs of compassion, and to confront difficult issues such as drug use and sexuality; and

WHEREAS, AIDS cases among Floridians have increased from 78,651 in August 2000 to 107,754 in August 2007; between August 2000 and August 2007, HIV cases diagnosed among Floridians increased from 17,504 to 39,207; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to raise awareness of the potential for HIV infection in the United States and offer services that effectively communicate critical HIV/AIDS prevention and access to care information; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is intended to promote HIV prevention efforts in the community and to support efforts to overcome stigma and discrimination that so often accompanies the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2007 as

## *World AIDS Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in urging all community based organizations, county health departments, religious communities, civic groups, elected officials and government agencies to utilize this day to raise awareness of AIDS in the 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, A.D., 2007.



*Pegeen Hanrahan*  
Pegeen Hanrahan  
Mayor