

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Craig Lowe  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, more than 85% of the fruits and vegetables we eat are hand-harvested by farm workers, who remain largely invisible to us, even those working in the fields of Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, farm labor is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States, with the highest incidence of work-related accidents and sickness from chemical pesticides; and

WHEREAS, farm workers are underpaid for back-breaking stoop labor, work long hours without overtime pay, often without breaks for water or rest; a worker in the South Florida tomato fields will need to fill 153 50-pound buckets at 36 cents a bucket to earn \$35 a day; and

WHEREAS, migrant farm workers often are required to live and work under inhumane conditions, even here in Florida and in Alachua County on occasion in involuntary servitude (slavery); and

WHEREAS, farm workers need to be recognized for the contribution they make to the lives of everyone in the City of Gainesville.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Lowe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 25-31, 2012 as

## *National Farm Worker Awareness Week*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me and people across the country in acknowledging how much we owe farm workers for the food on our tables.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D., 2012.

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Craig Lowe  
Mayor