

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, premature birth threatens the lives and health of more than half a million babies every year, including 29,276 babies in Florida, and the number is rising; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, 366 babies were born prematurity in Alachua County, and 14.3% of live births in Florida were preterm--a 13% increase in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, premature birth is the leading cause of death of newborns in America, and babies who survive may suffer lifelong consequences; and

WHEREAS, \$77,000 is the average hospital charge for a premature baby in 2003 compared to \$1,700 for a routine birth of a full-term baby; and

WHEREAS, premature birth is a national health crisis that must be stopped; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes continues to lead the fight against premature birth and other serious threats to infant health by funding research and programs that help more babies come into the world healthy,

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

Prematurity Awareness Month

in the City of Gainesville, and in honor of all babies born prematurely, those born healthy and full term, and those born with other newborn health concerns, invite all citizens to join me in support the March of Dimes efforts to fund research and programs helping to find the causes of prematurity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 30th day of October, A.D., 2007.

Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor