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City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Paula M. DeLaney

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Dr. Gordon Dwight Mattison served as professor of endodontics at the University of Florida College of Dentistry from 1984 until his death from cancer on May 7, 1993; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties at the University of Florida, and because he felt that success carried with it a responsibility to remember his heritage and humble beginnings, Dr. Mattison routinely contributed his services to the underprivileged; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mattison sought to provide area children with free dental screenings; and

WHEREAS, his efforts later evolved into a health fair which represented a collaborative effort between the Gainesville Police Department, the Black on Black Crime Task Force, and the University of Florida College of Dentistry; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 1998, the Student National Dental Association, in conjunction with UF students, faculty, staff and community leaders, and with the support and endorsement of the City Commission, revived Dr. Mattison's efforts by organizing the First Annual Dr. Gordon Mattison Health Fair; and

WHEREAS, the First Annual Dr. Gordon Mattison Health Fair was attended by more than 500 people and successfully screened over 230 children and adults for oral health and oral cancer; and

WHEREAS, this annual event, which best symbolizes Dr. Mattison's spirit and honors his memory, represented a collaborative effort between more than 70 local organizations and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the free education provided raises awareness about good health and healthier lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, the annual Dr. Gordon Mattison Health Fair will be held the Third Saturday of March each year. The second annual Dr. Gordon Mattison Health Fair will take place on March 20, 1999.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paula M. DeLaney, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim October 26, 1998 as

DR. GORDON MATTISON DAY

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in acknowledging Dr. Mattison's numerous contributions and his generosity toward his fellow man; and the impact his actions made on other members of 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 21st day of October, A.D., 1998.

Paula M. DeLaney

Paula M. DeLaney
Mayor