

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, pain is the number one cause of adult disability and affects over 80 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, chronic pain is a major economic issue with an estimated \$150 billion lost annually in workdays, medical expenses, and other benefit costs; and

WHEREAS, 31 million Americans have low back pain and one half of all working Americans have back pain symptoms each year; and

WHEREAS, many citizens, especially the elderly, minorities, urban and rural poor are unable to get treatment helping them to manage their pain due to high health costs; and

WHEREAS, lack of appropriate pain management can lead to serious physiological, psychological, and social consequences; impacting not only the individual but also the spouse, children, family, and community; and

WHEREAS, pain is a major health care problem in Florida where nearly 20 percent of the population is over the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, it is important to increase understanding of acute and chronic pain in the elderly and the overall impact it has on citizens of the Sunshine State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim September, 2009 as

### *Pain Awareness Month*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in learning about pain awareness and the availability of ways to assist in managing pain.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this sixth day of August, A.D., 2009.



*Pegeen Hanrahan*  
Pegeen Hanrahan  
Mayor