

ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

Delta Sigma Zeta Chapter

"A Community Conscious, Action-Oriented Organization"



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Regional Director

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Hollingsworth-Baker
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City of Gainesville Parks Recreation & Cultural Affairs
Attn: Public Recreation and Parks Board
306 NE 6th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

August 6, 2019

RE: Renaming of Tumblin Creek Park

Members of the Public Recreation and Parks Board,

In an unified voice, the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Delta Sigma Zeta Chapter and many members of the community, proudly propose Tumblin Creek Park (located at 600 SW Depot Avenue) be renamed in honor of Ms. Cora Roberson, an unsung trailblazer in the Gainesville community.

Ms. Cora Roberson is a 95 year old Gainesville native, who in 1968 became the first woman to run for the Gainesville City Commission. She advocated for more responsive government, closer city-county relations, expanded use of federal funds and **development of a park near Tumblin Creek**. She supported an open housing ordinance, a municipally-owned bus system, urban renewal and changing city government's personnel policies to open all areas and levels of employment to all citizens. With fortitude, Ms. Roberson ran against four white male candidates and ultimately, in a run-off election against another life-long resident, Perry C McGriff, Jr. She came within 819 votes of the winner, brought out 43% of the registered voters and forever changed Gainesville's political landscape. Ms. Roberson served to break the glass ceiling for women and African Americans who followed in her footsteps in seeking elected office in Gainesville, Alachua County and all of North Central Florida.

In addition to her run for City Commission, Ms. Roberson was a celebrated educator in our local school system. She was also very involved in service and social groups. Notably, she and four other action-oriented women chartered the first Black Greek-lettered organization in Alachua County - Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Delta Sigma Zeta Chapter.

Ms. Cora Roberson has been a stalwart leader in Gainesville. Because of her commitment to our community and her dedication to its betterment, we are proud to lead the charge in having Tumblin Creek Park renamed to Cora Roberson Park.

Please find attached, a copy of the City of Gainesville's proclamation declaring October 11, 2004 as Cora Roberson Day. Also attached is Ms. Roberson's full bio.

We thank you in advance for recognizing this Gainesville great in a manner befitting her service to our community.

Sincerely,

S. Yvette Carter
Executive Board Chairperson