

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Craig Lowe PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Rosa Louise McCaully Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama and, as a young woman, dedicated herself to service to her community and to the local NAACP, and was a devoted wife to her husband, Raymond, and also was a model citizen, faithful member of her church, and loyal friend to many; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was an advocate for education and community involvement in order to improve the lives of African-Americans in the segregated South; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks, through her tireless efforts and unwavering principles, refused to allow herself and others to be treated as second class citizens in America because of the color of their skin; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 1955, Mrs. Parks displayed quiet courage as well as dignity on a Montgomery, Alabama city bus when she refused to give her seat to a white passenger, as directed by a local ordinance. She was removed from the bus and was arrested; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks' actions led to a city-wide bus boycott, which then led to the beginnings of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement that transformed the nation and the world, and led to the emergence of Reverend Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. as a national leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner; and

WHEREAS, racism, prejudice and hate continue to persist today in our nation and society, and in order to give due respect and honor of Rosa Parks, the recipient of countless awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and to honor the birthday of Mrs. Parks, as well as the legacy she left behind in her passing on October 24, 2005, all citizens of Gainesville are invited to recognize and participate in "Rosa Parks Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Lowe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim February 4, 2011 as

Rosa Parks Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me and acknowledge the importance in celebrating the role of Rosa Parks in history and in our lives and the contributions she has made in helping preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 19th day of January, A.D., 2011.

Craig Lowe
Mayor