

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the character of Gainesville is only as strong as the character of our individual citizens, and everyone benefits when young people learn the universal values that good character counts in personal relationships, as well as in academic and professional settings; and

WHEREAS, character building is an important aspect of a child's development that places the focus on the root of change and more than ever, our children need positive and constructive guidance which can come from families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups and especially, municipal recreation programs; and

WHEREAS, "Character Counts", a program administered by the Josephson Institute, is an approach to character education helping to infuse good character into the DNA of the lives of millions of youth for the better. The program centers on basic values collectively referred to as the Six Pillars of Character, which include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs has integrated "Character Counts" into its after-school youth education program, "Foundations Academy," and all youth athletic programs that aim to equip kids throughout the City with essential leadership development skills and behavior goals while playing and participating in youth recreation programs; and

WHEREAS, each year, the U.S. President, U.S. Senate, state governors, officials and organizations across the country participate in recognizing "Character Counts" Week as a time to emphasize the importance of striving for good character at all times, in every situation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim October 16-22, 2017 as

## *Character Counts Week*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in including their children in various activities and events available throughout the City emphasizing the Six Pillars of Character.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D., 2017.



Lauren Poe  
Mayor