

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, mental illness touches many lives. Statistics vary, but most indicate that one in four people every year will experience symptoms of mental distress; and

WHEREAS, it is natural for families, friends and others to be concerned or frightened by the symptoms of disordered thinking, heightened emotional responses and strange behaviors in loved ones suffering from mental illness. From the community they should receive the message that there is no rejection; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Alachua County should reach out to all who are suffering from mental illness, responding with sympathy and understanding, just as we do to people suffering cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure or any of the many other diseases that afflict human beings; and

WHEREAS, major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disturbance and borderline personality disorder are descriptive terms used to explain extreme mental processes, the people stricken are individuals just like us; they want to live meaningfully and feel accepted; and

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness - NAMI Gainesville - is hosting a walk at Depot Park on Saturday, October 14th at 9:00 AM and invites everyone to show that our community is "On the Move for Mental Health" by walking with us.

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

Mental Illness Awareness Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in supporting the mentally ill on their paths to recovery.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 26th day of September, A.D., 2017.

Lauren Poe
Mayor