

City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 33 years ago, World AIDS Day was the first established global health day, dedicated to raising awareness of HIV/AIDS and uniting people around the world, demonstrating international solidarity surrounding HIV and celebrating the advancements in treatment; and

WHEREAS, Worldwide, there are approximately 36 million adults and 1.7 million youth living with HIV. World AIDS Day is a day to reflect on those who we hold dear, those who are living with or are affected by HIV/AIDS; and to remember the more than 35 million people we have lost to AIDS since 1981; and

WHEREAS, Observance of this day provides an opportunity for nations, faith-based organizations, foundations, businesses, academic institutions, and community organizations, which are critically important to the fight against the stigma surrounding HIV, to encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention and care efforts; and

WHEREAS, 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV and 13 percent of them are not aware that they have the virus, the ongoing stigma around HIV impedes testing, the negotiation of safe practices, and the needed support of those living with HIV. "Judge Not" by being tested annually and by embracing this year's theme, "Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice"; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day serves as a day to normalize HIV testing as a part of annual preventative care by encouraging people to get tested for HIV, to know their status, and to get linked to care and treatment. We recognize the local efforts of area service organizations: the Rural Women's Health Project's "Let's Talk About It" (HTAI), the Gainesville Area AIDS Project (GAAP), Peers Empowering Peers (PEP), WellFlorida, the Alachua County Health Department and the Cultural Arts Coalition as well as other local organizations which are united in their efforts to bring together advocates living with HIV and their allies to build a pathway to a stigma-free community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2021 as

World AIDS Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in recognizing the organizations and community members living with HIV/AIDS as they mobilize to reduce the stigma around HIV testing in order to prevent future HIV transmissions, to diminish HIV-related mortality and to improve quality of life for persons living with HIV.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 15th day of November, A.D., 2021.


Lauren Poe
Mayor

