

WHEREAS, in August 2000, Reverend Karl Anderson, Senior Pastor of Upper Room Ministries, founded People Against Violence Enterprises (P.A.V.E.), in Gainesville, Florida, in response to increasing violence in schools; and

WHEREAS, P.A.V.E. has dedicated itself to fostering a more peaceful community for our youth through violence prevention education, mediation and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, P.A.V.E. has organized the annual "Stop the Violence Back to School Rally," providing approximately 50,000 free backpacks filled with school supplies to children across Alachua County over the past quarter-century; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville has supported P.A.V.E.'s initiatives, contributing an estimated total of \$60,000 over the past 25 years, including recent funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); and

WHEREAS, 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of P.A.V.E. after a quarter-century of unwavering dedication to violence prevention and youth empowerment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey L. Ward, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim February 8, 2025 as

## People Against Violence Enterprises Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in honoring and commending People Against Violence Enterprises (P.A.V.E.) for 25 years of outstanding service, leadership and commitment to creating a safer and more peaceful community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 24th day of January 2025.



Marvey L, Ward Jr., Mayor