

City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day was established to bring awareness to HIV/AIDS and serve as a day to reflect on those who we hold dear, living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and to remember the more than 36 million people we have lost to AIDS since 1981; and

WHEREAS, there have been significant advances, such as PrEP, in the prevention, testing, and treatment and the success of many people reaching an undetectable level, there still exists the threat of criminalization along with the disparities that impact the lives of so many, with 1 in 8 people in the US living with HIV being unaware of their status; and

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is a global issue, this day offers an opportunity for local faith-based organizations, foundations, businesses, academic institutions, and community organizations, to incorporate programs that are critically important in the fight against the stigma surrounding HIV and to encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention, education and care efforts; and

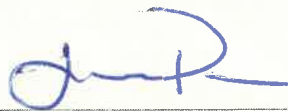
WHEREAS, World AIDS Day serves as a day to normalize HIV testing as a part of annual preventative care by encouraging people to get tested for HIV, learn their status, and get linked to care and treatment; we recognize the dedication and efforts of area service organizations: Rural Women's Health Project's Let's Talk About it, Gainesville Area AIDS Project (GAAP), Peers Empowering Peers (PEP), Black AIDS Services and Education (BASE, Inc.), WellFlorida Council, Florida Department of Health in Alachua County, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, North Central Florida Pride Center, Unspoken Treasure Society 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, 2022 as

World AIDS Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me and recognize and applaud these 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, diminish HIV-related mortality and improve the 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 9th day of November, A.D., 2022.



Lauren Poe
Mayor