



City of Gainesville, Florida  
Office of Mayor Harvey L. Ward, Jr.

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, Tony R. Jones is a native of Gainesville, Florida, the son of Nathaniel Jones, who for 20 years was an officer and trailblazer for equal rights with the University of Florida Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Jones graduated from Eastside High School, served as a police explorer, and joined the Gainesville Police Department on October 6, 1975, rising through the ranks to captain and supervising the City's first Community Oriented Policing Teams; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Jones was among the founders of the Reichert House Youth Academy, supporting more than 2,200 boys over the course of 36 years as a source of mentorship, support, and care; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Jones served as Interim Chief of the Gainesville Police Department, then District Commander of the South District, where he remained until his first retirement in January of 2004; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Jones returned to the Gainesville Police Department to lead the Community Resource Division before serving as Gainesville Police Chief for 13 years; and,

WHEREAS, in 2013, Chief Jones received from the International Association of Chiefs of Police the Individual Civil Rights Award for civil rights work and guiding young people; and,

WHEREAS, in 2022, Chief Jones was appointed Acting Chief Operating Officer for General Government and served in that capacity until being appointed Special Advisor to the City Manager for Juvenile Justice and Community Support Programs; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Jones has supported the Pineridge neighborhood through the Community F.I.R.S.T. initiative; has served on the boards of the Boys and Girls Club and the United Way; and is a member of the Florida Police Chiefs Association, the Black-on-Black Crime Task Force, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Jones served as the Southern Regional Chair of the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice; was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the State Advisory Council for the Department of Juvenile Justice; and is an active member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey L. Ward, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim October 19, 2023 as

## Chief Tony Jones Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in paying special tribute to this quintessential public servant and community leader on the occasion of his retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida this 11th day of October, A.D., 2023.

Harvey L. Ward Jr.,  
Mayor