

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

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, this 35th World AIDS Day theme of "Remember and Commit" is recognized internationally as a day to highlight the progress made to curtail the virus and to remember those who have passed. We invite local faith-based organizations, foundations, businesses, academic institutions, and community organizations, to incorporate critically important programs that focus on HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and care efforts; and

WHEREAS, the stigma surrounding HIV has been around since the virus was detected. Great strides have been made to diminish the myths, and there are significant medical advances, such as PrEP to prevent transmission and the U=U campaign which calls attention to the fact that people living with HIV and are taking their meds have an undetectable viral load and cannot sexually transmit HIV; and

WHEREAS, there is a national network of outstanding advocates here in North Central Florida like the women of Let's Talk About It, a support and advocacy group for women living with and caring for those with HIV. This support group has worked tirelessly for over 12 years to share education with the community on social, civil, and raising health concerns to improve the lives of all community members while creating bonds with new women living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, Gainesville is so fortunate to have so many wonderful efforts from area service organizations like Rural Women's Health Projects, Gainesville Area AIDS Project (GAAP), Peers Empowering Peers (PEP), Black AIDS Services and Education (BASE, Inc.), Unspoken Treasure Society, Let's Talk About it, Well Florida, and the Alachua County Health Department. 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, Harvey L. Ward, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2023 as

## World AIDS Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in applauding these organizations, as well as community members living with HIV/AIDS, as they mobilize around HIV testing to prevent future HIV transmissions, diminish HIV-related mortality, and improve the quality of life for persons living with HIV. We also want to pause to remember those who have passed and support those who so graciously continue their work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 17th day of November 2023.



  
Harvey L. Ward, Jr.  
Mayor