

WHEREAS, the women of Gainesville of every race, class, and ethnic background, have made historical contributions to the growth and strength of our city in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, the women of Gainesville have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social roles in every sphere of our city by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside the home; and

WHEREAS, the women of Gainesville have played a unique role throughout the history of our city in providing leadership to our community through advocacy, activism, and serving in elected offices; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of the women of Gainesville in our city's history has been and often continues to be overlooked and undervalued, in the literature and the teaching of that history; and

WHEREAS, in our city, we believe it is vital that we celebrate the courageous women both present and past who have built a stronger, fairer, more just Gainesville, and that we inspire the next generation of women and girls to follow in their footsteps.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey L. Ward, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March, 2024 as

Women's History Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in observance of this month, and to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2024 with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 4th day of March 2024.