

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

Proclamation

WHEREAS, all neighbors stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs. They provide a safe and engaging educational environment that helps children realize their full potential and supports their academic growth and well-being. They help address key issues in our community such as school absenteeism, learning loss recovery, social and emotional skills, health and nutrition, and classroom behavior. These programs build stronger communities by involving students, parents, businesses, and volunteers in the lives of young people; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs provide critical support for children and young people, offering them new experiences and opportunities, along with hands-on learning, that helps them learn and grow. Youth who attend afterschool programs attend school more often, do better in school, and gain important work and life skills; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, an estimated 7.7 million children are alone and unsupervised after school. The Children's Trust of Alachua County supported 415 students in afterschool programs in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 24, 2024, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs for our communities. This year, the celebration will be held at the Boys & Girls Club in northwest Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs face operating challenges as demand continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville is committed to providing expanded learning opportunities and values the support that quality afterschool programs provide children, families, and the community.

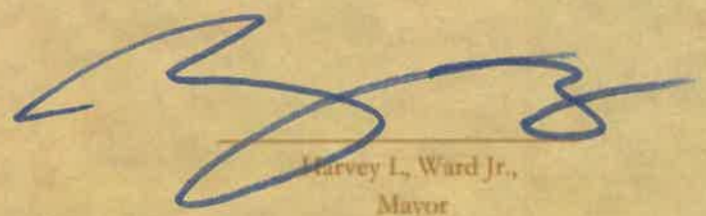
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey L. Ward, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2024 as

Lights On Afterschool Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in enthusiastically endorsing Lights On Afterschool and committing our city to engaging in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on, and the doors stay open for all children after school.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 11th day of October 2024.




Harvey L. Ward Jr.,
Mayor