

City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) is one of the most common serious hereditary disorders in the world and can result in life-threatening liver disease in children and adults or lung disease in adults; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 has been identified in virtually all populations. An estimated 100,000 children and adults in the U.S. have the severe deficiency. Researchers estimate there are at least 20 million carriers of the single gene defect in the U.S. that may pass it on to their children; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 is widely under-diagnosed and misdiagnosed. Fewer than 10% of those predicted to have Alpha-1 have been accurately diagnosed. It often takes an average of five doctors and seven years from the time symptoms first appear before proper diagnosis is made. However, Alpha-1 is easily detected using a simple test; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 is the most commonly known genetic risk factor for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), the third leading cause of death in the U.S., only behind heart disease and cancer. Lung disease is the most frequent cause of disability and early death among affected Alphas, striking in the prime of life and a major reason for lung transplants; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 originates in the liver and can lead to liver failure at any time in life. It is the leading genetic cause of liver transplantation in children. Currently, the only treatment for liver disease of Alpha-1 is a liver transplant.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim November, 2021 as

Alpha-1 Awareness Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in bringing awareness to this hereditary disorder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 5th day of November, A.D., 2021.



Lauren Poe
Mayor

