

## City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, alienating behaviors are often found in high conflict divorce and custody situations; and

WHEREAS, these behaviors, such as speaking negatively about a parent to or in front of a child, interfering with communication and visitation, and discussing inappropriate information with a child, such as details of the marriage, court proceedings, or financial matters, can not only destroy the bond between a loving parent and child, but can cause mental and emotional harm to the child; and

WHEREAS, Parental Alienation takes advantage of the suggestibility and dependency of children; and

WHEREAS, Parental Alienation deprives children of their right to love and be loved by both parents; and

WHEREAS, Parental Alienation is considered harmful to children as the alienating tactics used on the children are confusing, frightening, and rob children of their sense of security; and

WHEREAS, professionals agree that the problem of Parental Alienation exists and is damaging to children and can affect them into adulthood with tragic consequences; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 2.4 million divorced North Americans including the parents of more than one million children under the age of 18, with nearly as many unmarried couples with children separating; and

WHEREAS, with awareness comes education and understanding, and the power to stop the abuse of innocent children caught in the crossfire of the people they love,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2009 as

### *Parental Alienation Awareness Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in the effort to stop innocent children from being affected by Parental Alienation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D., 2009.



*Pegeen Hanrahan*  
Pegeen Hanrahan  
Mayor