



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Professor Ira Holmes was an integral part of a united group of residents in the early 1980's, who, with their collective power, successfully halted the expansion of SE Wenona Avenue from Silver Springs Boulevard to SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ocala City Council appointed Professor Ira Holmes to the Ocala Historic Preservation Advisory Board (OHPAB) on November 9, 1982, and he has participated in over 400 board meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the city, with the unwavering support and dedication of Professor Ira Holmes, took a significant step in preserving its rich heritage by adopting the Historic Preservation Code and the Ocala Historic District in 1984, a decision that continues to shape our city's identity; and

**WHEREAS**, Professor Ira Holmes, a stalwart of the Historic Ocala Preservation Society (HOPS), has been instrumental in formulating the Historic Preservation Plan/Element, Comprehensive Plan, 2035 Vision Plan/Leadership Group, and the establishment of three other historic districts, showcasing his profound understanding and commitment to preserving our city's heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, Professor Ira Holmes has been a beacon of knowledge and inspiration at the College of Central Florida for over six decades. His profound impact on the humanities and his students was recognized with the CF Foundation's Distinguished Service Award in 2009, a testament to his unwavering commitment to education; and

**WHEREAS**, Professor Ira Holmes, a cultural pioneer, has enriched the fabric of Ocala since 1961 as the founder and director of Central Florida's International Film Series. This platform has brought diverse foreign and critically acclaimed films to our community, broadening our cultural horizons; and

**WHEREAS**, Professor Ira Holmes has left an indelible mark on his students and the community for the past 60-plus years. His unwavering dedication to education, historic preservation, and film resonates deeply, inspiring all who have had the privilege of knowing him and instilling a sense of gratitude for his profound influence.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ben Marciano**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, present this proclamation to Professor Ira Holmes as a token of our deep appreciation and respect for his dedication and contributions to the community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.



*Ben Marciano*

Ben Marciano, Mayor  
City of Ocala