



Proclamation

WHEREAS, National Healthcare Decisions Day is recognized across our nation on April 16, 2020 to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for healthcare decisions, especially those related to end-of-life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, many Ocala residents have not yet prepared for healthcare decisions in times of crisis or at end of life, nor had important conversations with their families and their healthcare providers and documented those decisions; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant reason for these low percentages is that there is both a lack of awareness and uncertainty in the public about Advance Directives; and

WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of Ocala's Healthcare Decisions Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives and increase the number of Ocala residents with advance directives; and

WHEREAS, Hospice of Marion County, along with many of Ocala's prominent health care businesses, faith-based groups and senior services organizations, have demonstrated commendable leadership in furthering patient and caregiver-focused advance care planning, and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and completing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, as a result of April 2020 being recognized as the City of Ocala's Healthcare Decisions Month throughout our city, more individuals and families will have conversations about end-of-life concerns, including their health care decisions; more citizens will execute advance directives to make their wishes known; and fewer families and health care providers will be left to make difficult decisions, in the absence of guidance from the patient;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby proclaim that April 2020 be known as

“City of Ocala Healthcare Decisions Month”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 1st day of April 2020.



Kent Guinn, Mayor
City of Ocala