Oct. 2, 2024

Retired basketball star, media personality and businessman Shaquille O'Neal has been named the grand marshal of the City of Gainesville's 2024 A Very GNV Holiday Parade, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7.

O'Neal is one of the most famous basketball players in the world, racking up four National Basketball Association (NBA) championships, an Olympic gold medal, and a 2016 induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. That same year, O'Neal surprised a group of neighborhood children in our community by playing street basketball alongside Gainesville Police Department Officer Bobby White.

As you know, a holiday parade has the power to unite people in joy and celebration. We were overwhelmed by the community response last year. It exceeded all expectations. One of our biggest challenges for year two was finding a grand marshal to bring as much fun and excitement as Steve Spurrier, and with Shaquille O'Neal I am confident we have succeeded.

In this spirit, we kindly ask for your support through a sponsorship to help make the upcoming parade a resounding success and cherished community event. Listed below are the sponsorship levels. A full sponsorship packet is included with this correspondence.

Four levels of sponsorship are available:

Platinum \$10,000 Gold \$5,000 Silver \$2,500 Sapphire \$1,500

We are pleased to announce the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc. will again serve as our fiscal agent. Please make checks payable to the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc., with "City of Gainesville Holiday Parade" on the memo line.

The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc. is recognized as a nonprofit organization per IRS Code 432.56.215-B. IRS Code: Section 501(c)(3).

Tax Identification Number: 59-3183023

352-334-5016 · www.GainesvilleFL.gov

Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce 300 E. University Ave., Suite 100 Gainesville, FL 32601

You may also sign up to sponsor the holiday parade at www.gainesvillefl.gov/paradesponsor.

The deadline for all donations is Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 352-317-8291.

With deepest gratitude,

Mayor Pro-Tem Cynthia Moore Chestnut