



**WHEREAS**, the eighth annual Orange City African American Heritage Festival celebrates the vibrant culture and rich history of African Americans in Volusia County; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration in Mill Lake Park will include gospel music, dancing, praise, food and vendors; and

**WHEREAS**, the festival was the inspiration of Everybody is Somebody founder and visionary Sharon Stafford; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to Ms. Stafford, festival organizers include Antwain Allen, Mary Allen, Selina Allen, Felicia Benzo, Rasheed Black, Darren Darby, Julius Francis, Pat James, Shari Johnson-Thompson, Sean King, Evelyn Robinson, Alisa Stafford and Vernon Stafford; and

**WHEREAS**, the festival has become a living symbol of its slogan, "Unity in the Community," because it unites residents regardless of age, gender, race or social class; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's festival will feature the unveiling of a state historical marker for the Orange City Colored School, which educated young African American students from 1925 to 1969; **NOW THEREFORE**,

**WE, THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**, do hereby proclaim February 25, 2017, as:

## **ORANGE CITY AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL DAY**

in Volusia County and urge all residents to learn more about the achievements and contributions of African Americans in Volusia County.

**Dated this 25th day of February 2017**