

PROCLAMATION

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, For twenty-eight (28) years Gisele Renee (Thomas) Lowe has been teaching and coaching Palm Beach County school children to read. However, her passion for the profession began a lot earlier in life, almost as soon after she, herself, began walking, talking and reading; and

WHEREAS, The eldest of 12 children, Renee was charged with helping her siblings develop a love for the written word....therefore, daily she turned their kitchen into a makeshift classroom, using cereal boxes, newspapers, and just about anything with words on it, to teach her brothers and sisters that knowledge is power, and that harnessing that power all starts with reading; and

WHEREAS, Gisele Renee earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Ed. from Alabama A & M, a Master's from Nova Southeastern University, and holds a Master's in Reading for Kindergarten through 12th grade. But instead of becoming an educator right after graduation, Renee chose to move up the ranks slowly by driving a school bus and working 10 years as an Operating Room Specialist with the United States Army. Gisele's first real classroom was at Kirklane Elementary, then at H. L. Johnson Middle School in Palm Beach Gardens, then on to Westward Elementary and Roosevelt Full Service Center both in West Palm Beach. Mrs. Lowe also taught at West Riviera Beach Elementary before serving as the Reading Coach at Palm Beach Lakes High School. The two time recipient of "Just Read Florida", was named Teacher of the Year in 08 by the North Palm Beach Chamber and the Regional Reading Coach of the year for our School District in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Literacy in the Lowe's household turned out to be generational, with one of her four daughters, Kendra Thomas, following in mom's footsteps, and with 9 grandchildren along with countless numbers of her neighbors' kids, now flipping the script and turning the tables by reading books and anything with words to her. The newly retiree and her husband, Durwin Lowe, live in the city where Gisele Renee was raised, right here in Riviera Beach. Mrs. Lowe's work in the classroom continues through volunteerism, still helping students with reading and strategies for achieving higher test scores on the A.C.T.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Honorable Bishop Thomas A. Masters, Mayor of the City of Riviera Beach, Florida, by the powers vested in me by the residents of the City of Riviera Beach, do hereby proclaim February 17-19, 2017 as the Gisele Renee Thomas Lowe Weekend in the City of Riviera Beach, and join with her in encouraging all parents to read to your children, young and old, as early and as often as possible.

IN WITNESS THEREFORE, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Riviera Beach, Florida to be affixed on this 15th Day of February, Two Thousand Seventeen A.D.

Thomas A. Masters, Mayor

ATTEST:

Claudene L. Anthony, CMC, City Clerk

.....