Office of the Mayor
Okeechobee, Florida

WHEREAS, protection of every Floridians right to access public records and government meetings, is a high priority in the City of Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, an open and accessible government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people’s trust and confidence in their government and in the government’s ability to effectively serve its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of a transparent government and freedom of information, supporting the principles of open government, and the public’s right to know and have access; and

WHEREAS, Sunshine Week grew out of Florida’s Sunshine Sunday in 2002, in response to efforts by some Florida Legislators, to create scores of new exemptions to the state’s public records law; and

WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is being promoted by national, state and local officials, in an effort to increase public awareness of this right, and serve as a reminder to those in government, to continue their commitment to abide by the Sunshine Laws.

NOW THEREFORE, I, James E. Kirk, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Okeechobee, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 16-22, 2014, as “Sunshine Week” to promote dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information, to increase information provided electronically and online, and to ensure the public maintains their right to be heard at all City meetings and that such are duly noticed.

In witness whereof, on February 18, 2014, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.

James E. Kirk, Mayor

Attest: Lane Gamio Tea, City Clerk