



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Ken Cornell, *Chair*
Marihelen Wheeler, *Vice Chair*
Mary Alford
Charles S. Chestnut, IV
Anna Prizzia

Administration
Michele L. Lieberman
County Manager

December 8, 2020

Email: GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

Governor Ron Desantis
The Capitol
400 S Monroe St,
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Poet Laureate Nomination – E. Stanley Richardson

Dear Governor Desantis:

On behalf of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, I'm writing to respectfully request that Alachua County's first Poet Laureate, E. Stanley Richardson, be strongly considered to serve as the State of Florida's incoming Poet Laureate.

Mr. Richardson was selected as our Poet Laureate in January 2020 to serve a two-year commitment. This year, he has written original poetry to address both difficult and commemorative topics shared at public events and Commission meetings such as our Victims of Lynching Memorial Service; Medicare; the Kate Barnes Boat Ramp Dedication; and the Farewell Ceremony for our outgoing County Commissioners. A library of his work as our Poet Laureate is available at <http://alachuacounty.us/Arts-Council/Pages/poet-laureate.aspx>.

We are appreciative of the careful thought and consideration you have placed in your decision regarding the selection of our State's next Poet Laureate. It is without reservation that we provide our full support for Mr. Richardson to fill this important role. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Ken Cornell, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr20.xxx

CC: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
Gina Peebles, Chief of Staff