

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

April 9, 2019

7:00 PM

Joint City Commission/UF Student Government Special Meeting

Senate Chambers - Ground Floor of Reitz Union

City Commission

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)

Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)

Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)

Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)

Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)

Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

If you have a disability and need an accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at (352)334-5051 at least two business days in advance. TTY (Text Telephone Telecommunication Device) users please call 711 (Florida Relay Service). For Speech to Speech (STS) relay, please call 1-877-955-5334. For STS Spanish relay, please call 1-877-955-8773. For STS French Creole relay, please call 1-877-955-8707.

CALL TO ORDER - 7:02 PM**AGENDA STATEMENT****ROLL CALL**

Present 5 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

Absent 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Commissioner Simmons

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Ward arrived at 7:08 PM.

The Mayor and Commissioners gave introductions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Warren, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Commissioner Simmons

BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS[180653.](#)**Renters' Rights and Responsibilities (B)**

Commissioner Arreola gave an update on the current topics being discussed by the Rental Housing Subcommittee: 1) Mediation programs for landlord/tenant disputes; 2) Tenant bill of rights and responsibilities; 3) Landlord/tenant education program; 4) Mandatory disclosure of City Code occupancy limits; 5) Amending the City's Fair Housing Code to include prohibiting discrimination in rental of housing based on income source and immigration status; 6) Landlord mitigation fund options. Also, short-term vacation rentals.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos added the topics of universal landlord licenses; minimum health and safety standards and inspections; and energy efficiency standards.

Commissioner Warren spoke to the issues of landlord/tenant rights and relationships. Encouraged students to learn and be informed about rental housing.

Mayor Poe asked for student feedback or ideas on topics for the subcommittee to consider before it sunsets.

Student Merrill Jones asked about supporting students and landlords with inconsistency in move/move out dates during the school year. Commissioner Arreola responded to the comment regarding the University's schedule; would like to work with student Senate to bring the issue to UF administration.

Student Nicholas Bindy asked who bears the burden of health and safety standards. Commissioner Warren responded to the question. Mayor Poe responded to the question.

Student asked a question about roof inspections. Commissioner Arreola responded to the question.

Student William Tellen spoke in support of expanding renters' rights, thanked subcommittee for its work on the issue. Asked Commission to speak to proposals and reforms proposed by the Alachua County Labor Coalition, asked how students can support these issues. Mayor-Commissioner Pro Hayes-Santos encouraged students to attend subcommittee meetings to support these measures.

Student Ashley Roskin asked about protecting renters' rights for both large and small landlords/property owners. Commissioner Arreola responded to the question.

Student Murray Sorporez asked about UF Strategic Plan, how it will change area between east campus and downtown, how it will impact rental availability. Mayor Poe responded.

Student asked a question about housing energy efficiency. Commissioner Warren and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos responded.

Student Rebecca Rabin asked a question about new luxury apartment complexes, how the City will support middle income residents. Mayor Poe responded that new housing units opens up older housing stock, making more affordable units available. Encouraged students to attend affordable housing meetings; multiple approaches needed to address affordable housing.

Student A. Ortiz spoke about the inequality of housing in Gainesville. Asked how students can ensure that students and residents can find housing options when pressed for time. Mayor Poe responded about how the City is prioritizing rental housing issues. Commissioner Warren and Commissioner Ward responded to the question.

Commissioner Arreola announced the dates of the upcoming Rental Housing Subcommittee meetings, encouraged students to attend. Mayor Poe encouraged students to communicate any official positions of the Senate to the subcommittee.

Sheila Paine, Eli Barrett and Jessi Gozume spoke to the matter.

Mayor Poe responded to public comment.

Jeff Look, Code Enforcement spoke to the topic of renters' education, way to report housing violations to the City through 311GNV app.

RECOMMENDATION Joint UF Student Government and City Commission discuss

Discussed

[170487.](#)

Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Expanded Polystyrene Containers and Single-Use Carry Out Plastic Bags (B)

ORDINANCE NO. 170487

An ordinance of the City of Gainesville, Florida, amending the Code of Ordinances to prohibit the use of expanded polystyrene containers and single-use carry out plastic bags by creating a new Division 4 within Article III of Chapter 27; by amending Section 2-339 to provide a civil citation penalty; providing directions to the codifier; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; and providing an effective date and an enforcement date.

Mayor Poe introduced the item.

Dan Hoffman gave an overview of City's Zero Waste initiatives.

Mayor Poe asked for students to help support efforts to encourage multi-family units (apartment complexes) to recycle. Asked for suggestions and ideas on what would make it easier to recycle.

Student Sheila Rodriguez asked if the City can tell landlords to get students to support sustainability efforts. Mayor Poe responded to the comment. Asked students to discuss ideas to bring back to the Commission.

Student Nick Hoffman commented about lack of awareness and knowledge regarding recycling (e.g., what items can be recycled in Gainesville). Suggested better communication between landlords and tenants.

Student spoke to the issue of one area for recycling in a large apartment complex. Suggested creating a serious student club to increase recycling among renters.

Student suggested an option to pay for recycled bottles (like in Europe); asked about feasibility of such a program. Mayor Poe responded.

Student Max Stein reiterated the idea of putting nicer recycling bins in every apartment to make recycling more conducive.

Student Ashley Roskin reiterated the point about convenience, suggested making trash receptacles less accessible, recycling bins more accessible.

Student spoke to transportation, clarity and accessibility of bin locations.

Student commented about bins at his apartment complex being too full. Asked question about paper bags as an alternative to plastic bags; Commission concern about whether plastic recycling will impact Gainesville. Mayor Poe responded to the questions.

Commissioner Ward spoke to the matter, intent of plastic bag ban as a waste issue rather than a carbon emissions issue.

Mayor-Commissioner Hayes-Santos spoke to the issue of recycling bins.

Nicholas Bindy and B. Gillespie spoke to the matter.

Mayor Poe responded to public comment.

RECOMMENDATION *Joint UF Student Government and City Commission discuss.*

Discussed

180939.**Sexual Assault (NB)**

Mayor Poe introduced the item. Invited students to share concerns.

Student Government President asked about ideas for raising awareness and addressing sexual assault on campus.

Police Chief Jones spoke about how City/GPD is making efforts to address sexual battery, provide victim support services and increase prevention/education around the issue among students and residents.

Chief Inspector Campos spoke about his experience investigating sexual assault crimes. Reviewed officer training related to victim trauma. Shared resources and encouraged students to educate and watch out for friends with ride-sharing services.

Student asked about designated areas for ride-sharing pick up after bar closings, can the locations be moved to areas with better lighting. Investigator Campos responded.

Student Colin asked about under-reporting of crimes with blue lights. Investigator Campos responded.

Student asked about resources for sexual assault victims, possibility of better communication between GPD and UF Police. Investigator Campos responded.

Student Nichole Smith asked about sexual harassment definition under Title IX. Asked about how to support victims of sexual assaults off-campus, ensure that their rights are protected. Investigator Campos responded.

Student asked a question about reporting sexual assault if inebriated. Investigator Campos responded that GPD does not prosecute in those cases, must find individual in possession of alcohol; would not prosecute victims reporting crimes.

Commissioner Warren commented that students should report overconsumption of drugs or alcohol, know that safety is GPD's priority.

Investigator Campos mentioned Alachua Crisis Hotline – can call for help navigating reporting crimes.

Student mentioned concerns about privacy. Asked about privacy-related resources for student victims. Investigator Campos clarified that criminal investigations are independent from Title IX investigations. Florida laws protect privacy and identity of victims, but public records of reports can be accessible.

Student commented about incident of a false ride-share driver trying to pick up a student.

Student commented about difficulty of international students reporting sexual assault. Asked question about ways to educate people about sexual assault so that burden does not rest on victims to defend themselves. Investigator Campos responded, commented about consent.

Commissioner Arreola spoke to the matter, encouraged male students to report incidents and normalize these conversations.

Mayor Poe spoke about the City's interest in engaging with students on students and safety. Thanked student government for the opportunity to meet. Asked to set a date for summer or fall for a next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Joint UF Student Government and City Commission discuss.

Discussed

PUBLIC COMMENT

MEMBER COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT - 9:59 PM