



Homelessness and the Downtown Community

November 13, 2006



Applause is Due

- **As of May 2006, only 200 communities in the US had committed to planning initiatives to end homelessness.**
- **Less than one year ago, Gainesville produced its 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (GRACE).**
- **The process involved over 200 people, including representatives from a wide variety of public and private sectors.**



Accomplishments

- The 10-Year plan outlined numerous short-, mid- and long-term goals
- Approved less than a year ago, many goals have been initiated and/or implemented:
 - Increase public awareness
 - Create an Office On Homelessness
 - Seek funding for homeless programs
 - Implement the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)



Derailment Ahead?

- Polarization around the appropriate response to legitimate concerns of residents, business owners, providers and advocates.
- Smallest but most visible and difficult homeless population driving attitudes about homelessness.
- Fear and frustration have caused some providers, residents and business owners to disengage from the process.



Re-establishing Consensus

- **Security-Services Team**
- **One-Stop Day Center**
- **Review, revision and/or consistent enforcement of ordinances**
- **Begin discussions with downtown service providers to encourage use of One-Stop Day Center**



Security-Services Team

- **Best Practice recommended in GRACE**
- **Uniformed daytime patrol on foot or bike for Downtown Area**
- **Link patrol with social service worker to provide assistance to homeless persons**
- **Include access to funding for transportation (Homeward Bound)**



One-Stop Day Center

- **2006-07 Goal in GRACE**
- **RFP to require *collaborative* response to ensure maximum participation and coordination of service providers.**
- **Services to include:**
 - Outreach
 - Centralized intake and case management
 - Employment training/placement
 - Food Distribution if permitted
 - Daily needs



One-Stop Day Center

- **Site may be proposed by collaborative but not required and not part of scoring**
 - Allows focus on service delivery
 - Encourages greater participation by providers
- **One-Stop Day Center must**
 - Be located outside downtown area
 - Comply with zoning requirements
 - Be located in close proximity to RTS
 - Provide an attractive, positive environment



Review of Ordinances

- **Review ordinances and current enforcement related to food distribution, panhandling, etc.**
- **Review land use/zoning categories and provision of social services, food distribution and shelter/housing.**
- **Concurrent with opening of One-Stop Day Center, adopt recommendations.**



Downtown Services

- **Work with downtown service providers to discuss phased re-alignment of social services to encourage use of One-Stop Day Center by clients and providers.**
- **Duplication of One-Stop Day Center services can be avoided and gaps in services can be addressed.**



The Long-Term Plan

- **Continue implementation of GRACE with Office On Homelessness.**
- **Develop a Campus Master Plan that includes One-Stop Day Center with expanded services that include programs to prevent homelessness.**
- **Include Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing in Master Plan.**
- **Work with partners to pursue funding for Campus Master Plan.**



Action Requested

Approve presentation concepts:

1. **Authorize staff to develop a Security-Services Team proposal, including funding options.**
2. **Authorize the City Attorney to work with staff to review ordinances and land use/zoning categories and bring recommendations.**
3. **Work with downtown service agencies to discuss ways to re-align services to emphasize use of One-Stop Day Center.**