

**#050741**

**Gainesville Police Department**  
**Inter-Office Communication**  
**Chief Norman B. Botsford**

**To:** Chief Norman B. Botsford **Date:** 12/14/05  
**From:** Captain Richard W. Hanna  
**Subject:** Handbill Ordinance Assessment

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An assessment of the Handbill ordinance will be discussed at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Public Safety meeting. This review was decided when enacted to determine the effectiveness of the ordinance on what was a citizen based concern brought to the attention of the Public Safety committee.

During the year 2005 the Gainesville Police Department handled eighteen (18) complaints. Virtually all complaints originated in the southwest area of the city inclusive of the area annexed in 2001 and heavily represented by those who originally brought the issue forward. The majority of complaints originated from apartment complex personnel, and were responded to by GPD personnel. A few were proactively handled by GPD staff who observed the violations. In ten (10) cases citations were issued and fines collected.

Approximately twenty (20) surveys were conducted by GPD of apartment complexes in District 3 that have properly posted for no handbills. All responses were positive and all felt the ordinance had made a positive impact on the problem. Managers have observed a vast reduction in the amount and frequency of handbills in their areas and have handled many incidents themselves by educating establishments on the ordinance. The deterrent factor was noted as well.

Due to the volume of complaints in a year time frame, it would appear the compliance rate is high and the ordinance has proven effective.