

## **Purpose of Annexation**

Annexation ensures that urban services are provided in the most efficient way to citizens. Urban service provision is the responsibility of all municipalities. Once areas reach certain densities or level of service expectations, it is reasonable to assume that urban services should be provided by a municipality.

## **ANNEXATION POLICY 1**

It shall be the policy of the City of Gainesville that:

Annexation proposals will be initiated to efficiently provide urban services to areas of unincorporated Alachua County.

## **ANNEXATION POLICY 2**

It shall be the policy of the City of Gainesville that:

All annexations will be within the adopted Urban Reserve Area. Upon annexation Gainesville will provide to the newly annexed area, the same services that are provided to current municipal residents.

## **ANNEXATION POLICY 3**

It shall be the policy of the City of Gainesville that:

At least 50 percent of the urban area included in the Gainesville Urban Reserve Area will be annexed by 2010. The unincorporated area of Gainesville is approximately 100 square miles. This will approximately double the area of the City of Gainesville.

## **ANNEXATION POLICY 4**

It shall be the policy of the City of Gainesville that:

The entire Gainesville Regional Utilities service area for water, wastewater, electricity and gas that meet the criteria of the Act, will be annexed into the City of Gainesville, as soon as possible.

## **ANNEXATION POLICY 5**

It shall be the policy of the City of Gainesville to:

Require incorporation into the city limits of Gainesville, in exchange for discretionary benefits.

The City of Gainesville and Gainesville Regional Utilities find it to be in the long term best interest of the public to provide discretionary benefits in the form of grants in aid, or reduced general fund transfer levels from utility services (pursuant to the Administrative Guidelines for Negotiated Retail Electric Rates, effective October 1, 1997) for the purposes of economic development, utility customer retention, and/or public education or good will.

The City of Gainesville and Gainesville Regional Utilities find that it is appropriate to require incorporation into the city limits of Gainesville, in exchange for such discretionary benefits.

These discretionary benefits are not otherwise available rates, tariffs, or service connections or routine parts of operating a municipal government or utility system. They must be detailed in written agreements, and require City Commission Approval before they are awarded.

When such benefits are awarded it is City Commission policy to require the recipient of the discretionary benefits to consent, or cause to consent to be incorporated into the City of Gainesville's corporate limits. When the recipients of such benefits are located in any area eligible and legal for annexation into Gainesville, consent to incorporate must be signed.

Incorporation into Gainesville will take place when the property meets the requirements for annexation, as such criteria may be defined under the laws of Florida. When the property meets the requirements, the owner will apply for annexation into the corporate limits of the City of Gainesville, Florida.

The recipient will take affirmative action to achieve annexation, and failing that, the Mayor of the City of Gainesville empowered by the designation of attorney-in-fact will execute the appropriate annexation procedures necessary to accomplish the annexation. The consent to incorporate shall be binding upon the heirs, successors and assigns and recorded in the public records of Alachua County, Florida. The City Commission may waive any requirement of this policy for a specific amount of time upon good cause shown in the best interest of the City of Gainesville.

## **ANNEXATION POLICY 6**

It shall be the policy of the City of Gainesville that:

The City of Gainesville encourages the annexation of neighborhoods and commercial properties that are contiguous to the city limits.

## **ANNEXATION STRATEGY**

It shall be the policy of the City of Gainesville that:

Areas seeking to annex into the City of Gainesville will be annexed. The City of Gainesville will facilitate areas desiring annexation, regardless of size. The City of Gainesville will review market research, voting patterns and other information to define areas that have the highest likelihood for annexation.