

ORDINANCE NO. 100244

An Ordinance of the City of Gainesville, Florida, relating to the Fire Services Special Assessment; creating Section 11-39.1 by establishing a Hardship Assistance Program; authorizing the City Manager to establish guidelines and administer the Program; providing a severability clause; providing directions to the codifier; and providing an immediate effective date.

**WHEREAS**, it is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Gainesville (“City”) and a public purpose to assist lower income residential property owners with the financial burden created by the imposition of a Fire Services Special Assessment; and

**WHEREAS**, at least ten (10) days notice has been given of the public hearing once by publication in a newspaper of general circulation notifying the public of this proposed ordinance and of a public hearing in the City Commission meeting room, First Floor, City Hall, in the City of Gainesville; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Hearings were held pursuant to the published notice described above at which hearing the parties in interest and all others had an opportunity to be and were, in fact, heard.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** A new Section 11-39.1 is created and added to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Gainesville, Florida, to read:

**Sec. 11-39.1. Economic Hardship Program.**

- (a) There is hereby created an economic hardship program to assist residential property owners. The City Commission, in its sole discretion, shall determine on an annual

1 basis whether to fund a program of hardship assistance to City residents who are  
2 living below or close to the poverty level and are at risk of losing title to their homes  
3 as a result of the imposition of the Fire Services Special Assessment.

4 (b) On an annual basis the City Commission shall designate the funds available to  
5 provide any hardship assistance. The provision of hardship assistance in any one year  
6 shall in no way establish a right or entitlement to such assistance in any subsequent  
7 year and the provision of funds in any year may be limited to the extent funds are  
8 available and appropriated by the City Commission. Any funds designated for  
9 hardship assistance shall be paid by the City from funds other than those generated by  
10 the Fire Services Special Assessment.

11 (c) The City Manager shall establish guidelines and administer the hardship program.

12 **Section 2.** It is the intention of the City Commission that the provisions of Section 1 of  
13 this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances of the City of  
14 Gainesville, Florida, and that the Sections and Paragraphs of this Ordinance may be renumbered  
15 or relettered in order to accomplish such intentions.

16 **Section 3.** If any word, phrase, clause, paragraph, section or provision of this ordinance  
17 or the application hereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid or unconstitutional, such  
18 finding shall not affect the other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given  
19 effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provisions or application, and to this end the  
20 provisions of this ordinance are declared severable.

21 **Section 4.** All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are to the extent of  
22 such conflict hereby repealed.

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