



**#150139A**  
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June 2, 2015

Dr. Lee A. Niblock  
Alachua County Manager  
12 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Dr. Niblock:

I am writing to provide you with an update on the status of the City's financial commitment to the Empowerment Center - Grace Marketplace for FY 2015-2016. The City is proposing to budget \$279,840 in FY 2015-2016 for homeless services at the Empowerment Center. This amount represents the City's share of the amended budget approved by the City Commission and the County Commission for FY 2014- 2015. It is our hope the County is also proposing to budget the amended amount of \$279,840 for FY 2015-2016. The amended budget amount represents the same service level for FY 2015-2016 the City and County provided in FY 2014-2015. We recognize that Dignity Village has had an impact on the services at the Empowerment Center; however, the proposed FY 2015-2016 funding is anticipated to continue the same level of the services.

On Wednesday, June 3, 2015, the Oversight Board has scheduled a special meeting to review the proposed FY 2015-2016 ACCHH budget. As a part of the budget review, the Oversight Board may consider the impact of Dignity Village on the current level of services provided by the ACCHH. As noted herein, the City has based its proposed budget on the same level of services as provided in FY 2014-2015 and the City will be waiting on the recommendations of the Oversight Board for any funding or program changes to the services in FY 2015-2016.

It is my understanding that both City and County staff are aware of the financial commitment proposed for FY 2015-2016. If you have any questions related to our financial commitment for FY 2015- 2016, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Russ Blackburn  
City Manager

Cc: Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager  
Susan Myers, Director, Alachua County Department of Community Support Services  
Tom Tonkavich, Assistant Director, Alachua County Department of Community Support Services  
Jackie Richardson, Housing & Community Development Manager

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*OUR VISION: The City of Gainesville will set the standard of excellence for a top-ten, mid-sized American city; recognized nationally as an innovative provider of high-quality, cost-effective services.*