



Staff Analysis

Welcoming City Policies

Presented by:
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Strategic Initiatives

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CITY OF GAINESVILLE STAFF ANALYSIS

Legistar No:170197

Title: Welcoming City Policies

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Summary of the Issue

During the July 6, 2017 meeting the City Commission referred a discussion of Welcoming City policies to the General Policy Committee. Accordingly, staff is bringing back information on the status of our local program as well as information on recent opportunities within the national Welcoming America network.

History/Background Information

The purpose of a Welcoming City is to “welcome newcomers from many parts of the world and recognize their many contributions to the cultural, social and economic life of the community”. In March 2016 the city of Gainesville was recognized as the first welcoming city in the state of Florida through a resolution adopted by the City Commission. Further, Alachua County was declared a welcoming county, and the Welcoming Gainesville and Alachua County non-profit organization was formed as the citizen-led arm for local welcoming planning efforts and initiatives. The above declarations allowed for Gainesville to become a member of the national Welcoming America Network.

The model of Welcoming Gainesville and Alachua County is based upon the long-standing Welcoming Sister City Program of Gainesville, which is citizen-led and government supported. Since its inception, Welcoming Gainesville and Alachua County has established several local programs and cultural events to support welcoming efforts and increase public involvement.

City staff remains in contact with both the local and national welcoming groups in order to support local welcoming efforts.

Fiscal Note

The annual membership in Welcoming America ranges between \$50-200, depending on city budget size.

Staff Recommendation

1. To receive a presentation
2. To provide feedback related to Welcoming City policies

Attachments

Resolution No. 140739- Designating Gainesville a Welcoming City and part of the Welcoming America network

Welcoming America Commitment to Participate

Welcoming Gainesville & Alachua County 2016 Welcoming Report

