



CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Office of the City Commission

001948

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

From: Commissioner Chuck Chestnut *C. Chestnut*

Subject: Co-Sponsorship of Race Relations Forum

Date: October 5, 2001

As you are aware, the National League of Cities has made the Campaign to Promote Racial Justice a top priority. The goal of the Campaign is to challenge city and county governments to promote Racial Justice.

On September 10, 2001, the Gainesville City Commission adopted resolution 001805, in support of the Campaign to Promote Racial Justice and the Second Annual Race Equity Day on September 19, 2001. In our supporting resolution we expressed our strong and enthusiastic support for the Campaign to Promote Racial Justice and its objectives.

In light of the recent tragedy of September 11th, the Florida Commission on Human Relations with assistance from the Governor's office is sponsoring a statewide community event entitled "A Day of Dialogue" scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2001. The idea is to generate as much discussion as possible regarding the challenges presented from living in an ethnically diverse community. As noted by the Human Relations Commission, in these critical times it is important that we all follow the President's example of reaching out to the Arab-American, and Muslim communities.

In support of the campaign, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission of Florida and the University of Florida Center for Race and Race Relations are sponsoring, "Building the Inclusive Community" a series of community forums to discuss and develop program initiatives to address the issue of race and community relations.

To show solidarity for this statewide initiative, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission and the University of Florida Center for Race and Race Relations will hold a press conference on October 11, 2001 to discuss the importance of this initiative. Our first forum entitled "Race and Religion" will be held on Monday, October 15, 2001, 6p.m., at the Alachua County Community Services/Health Department meeting room. The other tentative dates and topics are as follows: December 17, 2001 - "Race, Education and Employment," January 16, 2002 - "Race and Health Care," February 18, 2002 - "Race and the Criminal Justice System," March 21, 2002 - "Race, Politics and Government," and April 4, 2002 - "Race, Economic Development and Housing."

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Recommendations:

1. The City of Gainesville co-sponsor with the Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission of Florida and the University of Florida Center for Race and Race Relations the "Building the Inclusive Community" forums.
2. The City Commission authorize the Manager to designate Jimmie Williams, Interim Equal Opportunity Director or his designee as the City of Gainesville liaison for the forums.
3. The City Commission authorize the use of the Thelma Boltin Center and the MLK Multi-Purpose Center for community forums.
4. The City Commission authorize the Manager to allow staff to replay the community forums on the public access channel.

attachment

cc: Wayne Bowers, City Manager
Jimmie Williams, Interim EO Director
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Desta Meghoo, UF Center for Race Relations
Jackie Hart-Williams, Executive Director, MLK, Jr. Commission of Florida

RESOLUTION NO. 001805

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE IN SUPPORT OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE RACIAL JUSTICE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities (NLC), has made the Campaign to Promote Racial Justice a top priority; and

WHEREAS, a main goal of the Campaign to Promote Racial Justice is to challenge and assist city and town governments to become Cities Striving to Promote Racial Justice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville joins other cities across the county to mark the Second Annual Race Equity Day on September 19, 2001, and encourage all citizens to help eliminate racism and build a truly inclusive community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville has a positive working relationship with Alachua County and envisions the Campaign to Promote Racial Justice as a way of making local government a part of the solution for our community and our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King, Jr. commission of Florida, and the University of Florida Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations are committed to support the campaign by convening community meetings and creating other opportunities for discussions about race and racism.

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

Section 1. The City of Gainesville hereby expresses its strong and enthusiastic support for the Campaign to Promote Racial Justice and its objectives, articulation of a vision, a thoughtful examination of current conditions, the implementation of action plans, and the communication of ideas.

Section 2. The City of Gainesville invites all our citizens to be involved with and support this important initiative.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10 day of September 2001.



THOMAS D. BUSSING, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Kurt M. Lannon, Clerk of the Commission

Approved as to form and legality.



Marion J. Radson, City Attorney

SEP 12 2001

