

CITY OF  
GAINESVILLEINTER-OFFICE  
COMMUNICATION

LEGISLATIVE NO. 060765

Date: December 6, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

Via: Russ Blackburn, City Manager *RB*  
Tom Saunders, Community Development Director *TS*

From: *J* Jim Hencin, Block Grant Manager

Subject: Criteria for Siting the Proposed One-Stop Homeless Assistance Center

At the November 13, 2006, City Commission meeting, staff was asked to return at the December 11, 2006, City Commission meeting with criteria to be used in siting the proposed one-stop homeless assistance center. On November 16, staff released a survey to various individuals and organizations in the community to elicit their suggestions for criteria for siting of the center. Many of the individuals contacted represented organizations which are made up of other businesses, organizations or individuals, such as the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Gainesville Downtown Owners & Tenants Association, and the Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry. The survey requested responses by November 30.

Eight survey responses were received. Some responses were to the effect that the suggested criteria were "OK", and a few responses made suggestions that related more to operational issues rather than specifically to locational criteria. From those responses that included suggestions that had not already been taken into account by staff, we have aggregated those "additional suggestions" in the Responses to Survey (see Exhibit 1) for further consideration.

On December 5, the Implementation Committee of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness met to discuss siting criteria. The Committee reviewed the results of the staff survey and formulated its recommendations to the City Commission, which are listed in Exhibit 2.

Taking into account the additional suggestions that were received from the survey plus the recommendations of the Implementation Committee, staff recommends using the following criteria for selecting a site/facility for the proposed one-stop homeless assistance center:

1. The facility and site should be adequate in size to accommodate the services to be provided.
2. The facility should be easily accessible to public transportation via RTS, and reasonable accessibility to emergency services should be considered.

3. The facility lease costs, including any renovations, should be within the proposed budget.
4. The facility should comply, or be able to comply, with applicable zoning and building code requirements, including ADA accessibility.
5. The site should have adequate on-site parking, with space to accommodate solid waste pick-up.
6. The facility should be located so as to minimize negative impacts on adjacent residential neighborhoods and business districts.
7. The facility and site should be capable of providing an attractive, positive environment, with appropriate consideration for clients' pets at the site.
8. Proximity to other community services and facilities should be taken into consideration to avoid concentration of services.
9. Proximity to schools, day care centers, etc. should be taken into consideration to avoid any conflicts or negative impacts on those facilities.
10. The facility and site should have adequate utility services (water, electric, stormwater, etc.)

Once the City Commission decides on the site selection criteria, staff will proceed with using them to identify potential sites for the one-stop center.

#### Attachments

Exhibit 1

**RESPONSES TO SURVEY:  
CRITERIA FOR SITING THE ONE-STOP HOMELESS ASSISTANCE CENTER  
12/1/06**

Suggested siting criteria (original suggestions):

- 1 The facility and site should be adequate in size to accommodate the services to be provided
2. The facility should be easily accessible to public transportation via RTS.
- 3 The facility lease costs, including any renovations, should be within the proposed budget
4. The facility should comply, or be able to comply, with applicable zoning requirements.
5. The facility should be located so as to minimize negative impacts on adjacent neighborhoods.
6. The facility and site should be capable of providing an attractive, positive environment for those receiving services.
- 7 Proximity to existing services and facilities for the homeless.
8. The facility and site should have adequate utility services (water, electric, stormwater, etc.).

Additional suggestions (from survey respondents):

- Combine criteria #2 & #7: Facility should be easily accessible to public transportation to allow access to services which are not housed at the one-stop center
- Facility should be accessible to emergency services.
- Facility should have sufficient off-street parking for staff, providers, and clients.
- Facility should have adequate space for garbage pick-up on-site.
- Proximity to schools, day care centers, etc.
- Facility should be ADA-accessible
- Facility should be located so as to minimize negative impacts on adjacent business districts.
- Site should be large enough to accommodate additional (future) services -- shelter, meals, health care, etc

## Exhibit 2

### **IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: CRITERIA FOR SITING THE ONE-STOP HOMELESS ASSISTANCE CENTER 12/5/06**

- 1 The facility and site should be adequate in size to accommodate the services to be provided, including adequate outdoor space.
- 2 The facility should be easily accessible to public transportation via RTS.
- 3 The facility lease costs, including any renovations, should be within the proposed budget
- 4 The facility should comply, or be able to comply, with applicable zoning requirements
- 5 The facility should be located and operated so as to minimize negative impacts
- 6 The facility and site should be capable of providing an attractive, positive environment.
- 7 Accessibility to existing services and facilities for the homeless [should be considered].
- 8 The facility and site should have adequate utility services (water, electric, stormwater, etc.)
- 9 The facility should be accessible to emergency services.
- 10 The facility should be ADA-accessible.
- 11 Consider the existing social services concentration/burden [on an area].
- 12 The facility should be "pet friendly".