



City Of Gainesville
Office of City Commissioner David Arreola
Inter-office Communication

DATE: October 30, 2017

TO: Anthony Lyons, City Manager

FROM: Commissioner David Arreola

SUBJECT: Welcoming City Policies, as referred to General Policy Committee

Mr. Lyons,

I'm providing this communication for the benefit of you and your staff as you consider your recommendations regarding Welcoming City Policies as the Commission referred to the General Policy Committee. I'm grateful for the time you and your staff will put into this initiative.

As you know, last year the City of Gainesville proudly became the first city in Florida to join the [Welcoming America network](#). During this meeting representatives from the non-profit organization, Welcoming Gainesville and Alachua County, Inc. explained that the City Of Gainesville and Alachua County needed to formally declare themselves a Welcoming City and County in order for the NPO to gain access to the Welcoming America network. I'm grateful the Commission took action then.

I invite you and your staff to review the Welcoming America network's [guidelines for building a sustainable welcoming community](#). Additionally, here is the contact information for our Welcoming America network representative who is available to provide assistance: Daniel Valdez, Welcoming America Southeast Liaison (Daniel@welcomingamerica.org). In particular, the [Welcoming Institute](#), a recognized federal government technical assistance provider is available for us as a member of the Welcoming America network. You may also wish to review the Welcoming America's [Resource Library](#) and [member spotlights](#) for additional guidance and inspiration.

I have been in contact with one of the founders of Welcoming Gainesville and Alachua County, Richard McMaster, who can be contacted at (352)-318-9410. He has kindly provided the Welcoming Gainesville & Alachua County 2016 Annual Report which will provide insight into

how his group is a partner in our policies. I hope Mr. McMaster will be able to provide assistance in navigating the various resources of the Welcoming America network as well as support you and your staff as you consider your recommendations.

Finally, I wish to provide you with a few ideas that are of importance to me. In 2012 Greensboro, North Carolina launched an innovative community ID program partnership with FaithAction International to offer residents who might have limited access to government issued forms of ID, and to support diverse and inclusive communities. I believe this program which has been implemented in over 60 cities nationwide should be replicated in Gainesville. Limited access to government ID can prevent parents from picking up their kids at school or pursuing medical care. Second, I want to recommend the formation of a joint task force against immigrant and racial bullying in Alachua County schools, of course, in collaboration with the School Board of Alachua County. This can be discussed in more detail at our upcoming joint meeting. Lastly, I want to urge your staff to consider the reality of many people who come to live in Gainesville without yet having mastered the English language and how we as a city can facilitate them finding key services and programs.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to our deliberations on a later date at the General Policy Committee.

Sincerely,

David Arreola

City Commissioner, District 3