



2008 CITY OF GAINESVILLE STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Gainesville, Florida City Commission

Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan (At Large)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Rick Bryant (At Large)
Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa (At Large)
Commissioner Scherwin Henry (District 1)
Commissioner Ed Braddy (District 2)
Commissioner Jack Donovan (District 3)
Commissioner Craig Lowe (District 4)

Russ Blackburn, City Manager

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Appropriation Requests	
Sweetwater Branch/Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration	1
Little Hatchet/Lake Forest Creek Watershed Management Plans	1
Improvements to Meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	1
Regional Groundwater Monitoring Network and Protection of Water Supply	2
Regional Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative	2
Tier One Policy Initiatives	
State of Florida Ad Valorem Tax Reform	3
Support Gainesville's Inclusion in the Strategic Intermodel Access System	3
Improvements to the I-75/Newberry Road Intersection	3
Official Governmental Action Concerning Mobile Home Parks	4
Tier Two Policy Initiatives	
Instant Run-Off Voting	6
First Responder Funding	6
Use of Cameras for Enforcement of Red Light Violations	8
Operation of Radios of Other Mechanical Sound-Making Devices or Instrument in Vehicles	9
Continue Funding for Affordable Housing	9
Support for Community Redevelopment Agencies	10
Front Porch Florida Program	10
10-Year Plan to End Homelessness	11
Public Records Exemption for City and County Prosecutors Enforcing Code Violations	12
Beer Keg Registration	12
Florida Forever Program	13
Encourage a Mix of Incomes in Florida Housing Finance Corporation Programs	13
Florida League of Cities Legislative Priorities and Key Issues	14

FY 2008 State Agenda – Appropriation Requests

I. Water Projects

The City supports the following regional water projects, and requests funding assistance for itself and for its partner agencies where appropriate.

Sweetwater Branch/Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration – The City of Gainesville is requesting \$2 million in funding for a water quality / surface water resource protection project included in the St. Johns River Water Management District Orange Creek Basin, State Funding Initiative. The requested funding will be used as cost-share funding for the construction of a sheetflow channel with water-control structures and backfilling the Sweetwater Canal that connects Sweetwater Branch to Alachua Sink. This funding would complete the final downstream component of a project to restore the historic sheetflow onto the wetlands of Paynes Prairie from Sweetwater Branch. Restoring the sheetflow would result in the restoration of 1,300 acres of wetlands and improvements to water quality within the park. The project would allow Alachua Sink to achieve the total maximum daily load (TMDL) for nitrogen.

This request is 47% of the \$4.3 million estimated construction cost of the sheetflow distribution channel with water control structures and 9% of the \$23 million total project construction cost

Little Hatchet/Lake Forest Creek Watershed Management Plans – The City of Gainesville is requesting \$200,000 for this project. Both Little Hatchet Creek and Lake Forest Creek contribute surface water to Newnans Lake, a nutrient impaired total maximum daily load (TMDL) water body. The City must first identify and prioritize water quality improvement projects in order to begin reducing nutrient loading to Newnans Lake. This project is included in the St. Johns River Water Management District Orange Creek Basin, State Funding Initiative. The request is for 50% of the \$400,000 estimated total cost of developing the updated Watershed Management Plans

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager or Teresa Scott, Public Works Director

II. Improvements to Meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

The City of Gainesville requests \$1 million to assist with improvements to the City's Main Street Water Reclamation Facility (MSWRF) in order to meet the nutrient TMDL for the Alachua Sink, which was established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. This project will be performed in conjunction with the Sweetwater Branch/Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration project. The requested \$1 million would pay for 50% of the project cost, with the remaining costs (estimated at \$1 million) funded by the City and other local funding sources

Contact: David Richardson, Assistant General Manager for Water and Wastewater Systems

III. Regional Groundwater Monitoring Network and Protection of Water Supply

The City of Gainesville requests \$1.5 million for establishing a Regional Groundwater Monitoring “sentinel” Well Network around the City’s wellfield, and for supporting the City’s efforts to pursue cleanup of the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site.

The sentinel monitoring well network will provide the ability to detect the presence of any contamination moving toward the wellfield from groundwater contamination sites in advance of it reaching the City’s water supply wells. Sites of concern include the Cabot/Koppers site, US Department of Labor Job Corps site, FDOT Fairbanks site, State of Florida Tacachale site and other contamination sources. This will provide an early warning system so that, if contamination is detected, the City can take necessary actions to prevent it from reaching the City’s drinking water supply. The City also requests support in pursuing funding for this project from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Water Supply Protection Program.

The City is requesting funding to assist in its efforts to pursue USEPA and the parties responsible for cleanup of the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site. These efforts are necessary in order to ensure that appropriate and timely steps are taken to protect the City’s water supply, and that the site is cleaned up in an appropriate and timely manner.

Contact: David Richardson, Assistant General Manager for Water and Wastewater Systems

IV. Regional Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative

The City of Gainesville requests \$75,000 in funding assistance from the State of Florida to assist with construction of a new facility to house the teen program and expand the capacity of the Reichert House Program. This program, in existence for over 10 years, is a nationally unique juvenile crime prevention initiative with an 85% non-recidivism rate. It is part of the “Regional Continuum of Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative – Programs and Services to High-Risk Youth,” inaugurated in 1996. This initiative has received Special Purpose Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which recognizes it as a nationally unique and promising approach to reducing juvenile delinquency and crime.

The Reichert House Program now serves 80 high-risk African American youth. A combination of Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development CDBG funds and local commitments and contributions provided the additional \$534,000 to complete this phase of the Reichert House facility. The House continues to be in dire need of a facility for mental health counseling for the youth, and room for staff development.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager or Tony Jones, Community Relations Coordinator for GPD

FY 2008 State Agenda – Tier One Policy Initiatives

I. State of Florida Ad Valorem Tax Reform

The City of Gainesville will continue to monitor the Florida Legislature's efforts to reform Florida's property tax system. During the Legislature's 2007 Regular Session and subsequent Special Session, state lawmakers made various proposals to reform the property tax system. The end result was a statutory rollback rate for all counties and municipalities and the authorization for a Constitutional Amendment to be placed on the January 29, 2008 Presidential Primary ballot which intends to increase the current property tax exemption provided to homesteaded property owners. The City of Gainesville supports property tax reform in the State of Florida that is carried out in a fair and equitable manner to all parties involved. Additionally, any property tax reform should be in accordance with the Home Rule Authority granted to the City of Gainesville, as well as all counties and municipalities in the State of Florida, by the State of Florida Constitution.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

II. Support Gainesville's Inclusion in the Strategic Intermodal Access System

The City of Gainesville and Alachua County appear to be disadvantaged by our lack of destinations under the Strategic Intermodal Access System. The Florida Department of Transportation worked with the Legislature to target a majority of the state transportation funds to communities that possess identified strategic destinations. Those destinations include items such as ports, regional airports, the state capitol, and major theme parks. Gainesville and Alachua County are seeing the impact of the strategic direction in reduced funding for transportation projects. The City of Gainesville seeks legislative action that would potentially add the University of Florida as a destination to the Strategic Intermodal Access System.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

III. Improvements to the I-75/Newberry Road Intersection

The I-75/Newberry Road intersection currently experiences excessive stacking to enter onto southbound I-75 as well as excessive stacking going northbound during mayor events at the University of Florida. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has confirmed that District 2 has identified a project for this interchange in their gaming plan. The gaming plan proposal for funding that, if approved, would schedule the project for their FY2009/10 plan. The FDOT project scope includes reconstruction of the northbound off-ramp to provide additional vehicle storage so motorists are not required to stop on the Interstate through lane.

This will include:

- Widening the ramp to provide two left and two right turn lanes at the intersection with SR 26;
- Extending the deceleration lane on I-75 to a total length of 800 feet;
- Extending the left turn lanes to a total of 1080 feet per lane;

- Extending the right lanes to a total length of 1255 feet per lane;
- Modifying the traffic signal at SR 26 to facilitate the dual left and right turn lanes.

The City of Gainesville supports funding of this project in the FDOT District 2 gaming plan.

Contacts: Teresa Scott, Public Works Director

IV. Official Governmental Action Concerning Mobile Home Parks

The City of Gainesville supports an amendment to Section 723.083, F.S., to further clarify the municipal or county government’s responsibility when considering applications for rezoning, or taking “any other official action” which would result in the removal or relocation of mobile home owners residing in a mobile home park. Under Section 723.083, F.S., the governmental entity must determine that adequate mobile home parks or other suitable facilities exist for the relocation of the mobile home owners.

There is very little case law in this area and the number of petitions submitted annually for the rezoning of mobile home parks is increasing. Currently there are two informal Attorney General Opinions providing guidance on the proper interpretation of this statute. Although Attorney General Opinions do not have the force of law, they can be persuasive to courts in interpreting state law.

The Attorney General has opined that the legislative intent in using the phrase “adequate mobile home parks or other suitable facilities” was to ensure that the relocation facilities be appropriate to the financial and other needs of the specific population of mobile home owners who would be displaced by rezoning. In order to establish this, it was the Attorney General’s opinion that the state law places the burden on the property owner/petitioner to show by competent substantial evidence that adequate mobile home parks or other suitable facilities exist for the relocation of the mobile home owners. To meet this burden, the property owner/petitioner could demonstrate the availability of alternative housing which is appropriate to the needs, primarily financial, of the specific population of mobile home owners to be displaced.

The City of Gainesville supports legislation which accomplishes the following:

- Clarifies that the property owner/petitioner who seeks the rezoning is responsible for demonstrating that adequate mobile home parks or other suitable facilities exist for the relocation of the mobile home owners;
- Clarifies that the responsible party must consider the particular mobile home residents (e.g. financial status, demographics, condition of mobile homes) who would be affected by approval of the application;
- Provides direction in determining whether “adequate mobile home parks or other suitable facilities” exist for the relocation of the mobile home owners;
- Clarifies the phrase “any other official action,” or removal of the phrase entirely, in order to more narrowly define the government’s responsibility.

Without further clarification through case law of the Legislature, governmental entities must look to the Attorney General's informal opinions as their only source of guidance.

Contacts: Marion Radson, City Attorney or Natalie McKellips, Assistant City Attorney I

FY 2008 State Agenda Tier Two Policy Initiatives

I. Instant Run-Off Voting

The City of Gainesville supports amendments to Chapters 100 through 105, Florida Statutes, to:

1. Specifically authorize the use of the “Instant Run-Off Voting” (IRV) method in Florida elections, and
2. Require the Florida Division of Elections to certify IRV voting equipment and software

Key Points:

- Instant run-off voting allows for a winning candidate to be elected without the need for a separate run-off election. Voters elect officials by marking a ballot for a first-choice candidate, a second-choice candidate, and so on. A voter can rank as many or as few candidates as s/he desires. If no candidate receives a majority of “first” votes in a tabulation round, the candidate with the lowest vote total is eliminated, and his/her votes are transferred to the remaining candidates until a candidate receives a majority of votes in a round. Instant run-off voting (IRV) is currently not certified for use in Florida, and cannot be used until it receives State certification.
- Chapters 100-105, Florida Statutes, essentially dictates election methods that can be used in Florida. Among the requirements, the Florida Department of State and Division of Elections are directed to adopt standards for voting systems and to certify all voting hardware (equipment) and software for use in Florida. In addition, the hardware and software used together must be certified as a unit.
- While there is no law that prohibits the use of IRV in Florida, there is also no law that specifically authorizes the use of IRV. No IRV system is certified for use in Florida. The decision to submit an application for State certification is solely that of the manufacturer.
- New Florida legislation could encourage vendors to create IRV software for use with current State certified equipment, and to submit applications for Florida certification of IRV software.

Contacts: Marion Radson, City Attorney or Charles Hauck, Sr., Assistant City Attorney

II. First Responder Funding

The City of Gainesville supports legislative initiatives amending the process by which the State of Florida distributes federal funds intended to benefit local first responders. The Legislature is asked to amend Florida Statutes to allow efficiency in carrying out the intent of Congress involving Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funds directly and expeditiously into the hands of local first responders and agencies.

Counties currently have Emergency Management (EM) staff and equipment funded, whereas cities do not. State EM grant funds are overwhelmingly allocated to counties

with cities competing with each other for a limited share of grant funds. Counties provide only limited disaster services whereas cities provide the bulk of them without similar funding. To address these issues, the City is proposing a more streamlined process for grant review and funding distribution.

Key Points:

- All emergency responders in the City of Gainesville and Alachua County are dispatched through a single operations center. We have demonstrated a commitment to a system with sustainability as a top priority. This coordination centralization is uniquely positioned to take full advantage of technology that can store and retrieve vital information from a central repository and send it to all responders within the county.
- Congress passes legislation and provides funds intended to benefit local first responders. DHS has been provided large amounts of funds with direction to provide those funds to local first responders (after deduction a portion of the funds for administration). In the State of Florida, the convoluted and circuitous paths in the system by which these funds are to reach local first responders in Florida creates dramatic delays – even a matter of years with funds being passed through multiple layers of various agencies (each of which receives a portion of the funds for administration), and is subject to tremendous political maneuvering and micromanagement at the state, regional, and county levels – resulting in very little, if any, funds reaching local first responders. Throughout this process there is little input from local first responders as to what they really need to protect the populations they serve.
- When DHS funds reach the State of Florida, they are allocated to various State-level departments, which are charged with using the funds for the benefit of local first responders. These agencies often delegate the utilization of funds to regional task forces and/or to the 67 counties. The process followed by DHS to identify the cities needs are not conveyed. In Florida, DHS may direct funds to regional task forces or counties, bypassing the local first responders.
- The most efficient means of carrying out the intent of Congress to get the funds directly and expeditiously into the hands of local first responders and agencies is best met through direct grant application submitted electronically to DHS followed by the peer review process. The peer review team may include industry experts and peer agencies. Overall, this methodology works effectively for distribution of funds under the FIRE Act Grant, and includes an unbiased evaluation as it minimizes political involvement, uses professionals who have experience in the equipment and programs, and requires industry participation in the selection and award process.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager or William Northcutt, Fire Chief

Potential Allies

IAFC – International Association of Fire Chiefs

SEAFIC – Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs

Florida Fire Chiefs Association
Cities of – Alachua, High Springs, Hawthorne, Waldo, Archer, LaCrosse, and Newberry
University of Florida
Retired Chief Richard F. Williams
Retired Assistant Chief Elmond “Tony” Taylor

III. Use of Cameras for Enforcement of Red Light Violations

The City of Gainesville supports legislative initiatives allowing the use of cameras for enforcement of red light violations. The Legislature is asked to amend Florida Statutes to allow enforcement by citation for violations of red lights identified from photographs produced by certified cameras.

Key Points:

- Though unpopular with segments of the public, studies have consistently shown that in those areas where their use has been allowed, such as New York and Maryland, the number of crashes at those intersections have dramatically decreased – in some cases by over 30%.
- Red light violation cameras as a tool for the prevention of accidents on Florida’s roadways would increase the safety of all the traveling public
- Current State law allows the use of red light cameras, however limits enforcement to only a warning. A change to the legislation to allow enforcement by citation is desired.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager or Norm Botsford, Police Chief

Potential Allies

Locally, Lt. Coby Fincher and Captain McElreath (352-955-3180) of the Gainesville District (Alachua, Dixie, Lafayette, Gilchrist and Levy County) Florida Highway Patrol have advised that their agency would support the use of cameras in their jurisdictions. Additionally, Lt. Ryan Cox, commander of the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office Traffic Unit (352-367-4110) also indicated support for this legislation.

At the state level, we found that HB259 (sponsor Ron Reagan, Sarasota) and companion SB2614 (sponsor Stephen Wise, Jacksonville) on this initiative, was filed on October 17, 2005. After being referred to the Local Governments Council, the State Infrastructure Council, the Finance and Tax Committee and the Transportation Committee, it died in the Local Government Council. Ft. Meade, located in Polk County, was involved in a state grant test and evaluation in red light running enforcement in 2002.

Nationally, research found that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) support red light cameras as an effective countermeasure to prevent red light running. The FHWA is promoting red light cameras as one of its identified priority, market-ready safety technologies.

IV. Operation of Radios or Other Mechanical Sound-Making Devices or Instruments in Vehicles: Loud Car Stereos “Boom Box Initiative”

The City of Gainesville supports an amendment to Chapter 316.3045 F.S. to enhance penalties for repeat loud car stereo violations. It is currently unlawful for any person occupying a motor vehicle on a street or highway to operate or amplify the sound produced by a radio, tape player, or other mechanical sound-making device or instrument from within the motor vehicle so that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of 25 feet or more from the motor vehicle.

Key Points:

- Noise violations, specifically loud car stereo violations, continue to be an ongoing complaint of residents both in neighborhoods and adjacent to roadways. Surveys of residents have consistently indicated that noise emanating from vehicles is one of their top three concerns. This issue is consistent within virtually every neighborhood in the City of Gainesville.
- The existing statute has no enhancement for repeat violators. The violation is currently a non-moving traffic violation incurring a fine (e.g. In Alachua County, a violation of 316.3045 results in a fine of \$77.50) and no points; irrespective of how many times the same individual is cited.
- A recommended fine schedule and enhanced penalties could be patterned after Chapter 318.18, F.S.:
 - The first offense for a violation of Section 316.3045 would result in the same fine currently imposed;
 - The second violation to the same violator within a period of a calendar year would result in the fine being doubled; and
 - The third offense for the same violation to the same violator within a period of a calendar year would result in suspension of the driver’s license of the violator for not less than 90 days, and not more than 6 months, and a fine that is triple the original fine.
- Loud car stereos negatively impact the quality of life not only in Gainesville, but also throughout the state. This is a complaint heard in other jurisdictions. Specific to Gainesville, this is a citizen-based initiative with widespread support amongst citizen District Councils, neighborhood crime watches, homeowner and business associations, and community organizations such as the Black on Black Crime Task Force.

Contacts: Marion Radson, City Attorney or Russ Blackburn, City Manager

V. Continue Funding for Affordable Housing (William E. Sadowski Act)

The City of Gainesville opposes any reduction in funding for affordable housing and supports the use of documentary stamp collections to increase funding distributed to cities and counties in accordance with the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act.

Key Points:

- The City is a staunch supporter of affordable housing, as it benefits our less fortunate citizens and our local businesses that build and provide such housing.
- In 1992, the documentary stamp tax was increased to provide affordable housing as set forth in the William E. Sadowski Act. However, this funding was subsequently reduced and capped which negatively impacted affordable housing throughout the state.
- The State of Florida's Sadowski Act's affordable housing program is nationally recognized.

Contacts: Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager

Potential Allies

Florida Housing Coalition

VI. Support for Community Redevelopment Agencies

The City of Gainesville supports legislation to effectively use Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) to redevelop and revitalize their urban area, including the use of tax increment funding. The City supports local control and disposition of any disputes between local government over CRAs and their financing.

Key Points:

- Several cities and counties in the state are struggling with internal issues, and rather than handling them locally the counties are seeking statewide legislation to address their issues.
- Applying the South Florida, large city solutions to every CRA in the state limits the smaller cities' ability to address their own issues in their own fashion
- The Florida Redevelopment Association and the Florida League of Cities support the position stated above.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

Potential Allies

Florida Redevelopment Association

Florida League of Cities

VII. Front Porch Florida Program

The City of Gainesville supports continued funding for Front Porch Florida Communities.

Key Points:

- The Front Porch Florida Program is a significant component of the State's urban initiative, designed to involve neighborhood residents in the decision-making process on issues affecting their communities. Like the Front Porch Florida Program, Gainesville has had considerable success through its neighborhood

planning program and other coalition-building efforts to involve neighborhood residents in deciding neighborhood level improvements.

- As a result of neighborhood resident involvement and collaboration among local government and community-based organizations, the Duval Neighborhood was designated by the Governor as a “Front Porch Florida Community” in 2001.
- In the Duval Neighborhood, as well as in other Front Porch Florida Communities statewide, there is a demonstrated need for additional resources to address critical neighborhood needs. Those needs include public infrastructure improvements (streets, sidewalks, storm drainage, etc), recreational facilities, code enforcement, and improved housing. In recent years the City of Gainesville has embarked upon the development of a neighborhood stormwater park in the Duval Neighborhood that could not have proceeded as well as it has without resources that the community has been able to access through the Front Porch Florida Program.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager or Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager

Potential Allies

Other Front Porch Florida Communities statewide

VIII. 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

The City of Gainesville supports a request by Alachua County for \$4 million in state funding to implement a comprehensive, multi-year plan to combat homelessness in Gainesville and Alachua County.

Key Points:

- In 2005, the City of Gainesville and Alachua County collaborated in the completion of a 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. The Plan has been adopted by both governing bodies as the blueprint for addressing the serious problem of homelessness over the next several years.
- The City, County and other community-based nonprofit entities propose to implement the Plan by way of various programs, projects and services including healthcare, mental healthcare, housing, social services, drug and alcohol treatment, vocational training, job placement, court services, and institutional discharge planning and coordination.
- Expected outcomes of the proposed project include:
 - Preventing homelessness among individuals and families who are headed toward that end;
 - Intervening with homeless individuals to make certain that their experiences are short, temporary and unrepeated; and
 - Treating chronically homeless persons through a comprehensive case management approach by providing the supportive services needed to attain self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager or Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager

Potential Allies

Alachua County

GRACE Marketplace – One-Stop Assistance Center Partnership

Florida Coalition for the Homeless

IX. Public Records Exemption for City and County Prosecutors Enforcing Code Violations

The City of Gainesville supports an amendment to 119.07, F.S., to create a public records exemption for personal identifying information of city and county prosecutors who are responsible for civil and criminal prosecution of local code and ordinance violations, and their spouses and children.

Key Points:

- City and county prosecutors are responsible for enforcing local codes and ordinances in both civil and criminal proceedings.
- Some of these city and county prosecutors have received threats to their own life, health or safety, or that of a family member.
- The potential for such threats may increase due to the recent adoption by a number of local governments of codes and ordinances prohibiting sex offenders and/or sexual predators from living in close proximity to schools, parks, playgrounds and other areas frequented by children.
- Section 119.07, F.S., already contains public records exemptions for state and federal prosecutors, as well as local government code enforcement officers.
- Creating a public records exemption for county and municipal prosecutors and their families would protect information of a sensitive personal nature that, if released, would jeopardize the safety of these individuals. However, because only personal identifying information about these individuals and their families would be confidential, the exemption would be no broader than necessary to accomplish this stated purpose.

Contacts: Marion Radson, City Attorney

X. Beer Keg Registration

The City of Gainesville supports an amendment to Chapter 563, F.S., to require the registration of kegs containing malt beverages for consumption off licensed premises.

Key Points:

- The University of Florida Enforcement Subcommittee Community Alcohol Coalition recommended that the retail dealers selling kegs require each keg purchaser to present proper identification at the time of purchase. The licensee would also record for each keg sale, the keg identification number and information identifying the purchaser including the purchaser's name, address and driver's license number or equivalent form of identification number.
- Thirty-three states have laws requiring keg registration.

- Under Florida law, local governments do not have the authority to adopt ordinances to require keg registration. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco has general authority over the alcoholic beverage industry, but the Department takes the position that it does not have the legal authority to require keg registration.
- In 2007, Senator Anthony Hill proposed legislation in SB1956 to implement keg registration; however, the bill died in the Committee on Regulated Industries.
- Keg registration is not intended to penalize the beer industry or retailers. Keg registration would enable the state and local police agencies to hold adults, who purchase kegs under their names, responsible for those to whom the alcohol is offered, including underage people. By supporting keg registration, the industry becomes part of the solution to the underage drinking problem.

Contacts: Marion Radson, City Attorney or Ronald Combs, Sr. Assistant City Attorney

XI. Florida Forever Program

The City of Gainesville supports the State of Florida Legislature for the creation and funding of a successor program to the Florida Forever Program, which will sunset in 2010.

Key Points:

- Since 2000, Florida Forever has spent \$300 million annually to further its conservation efforts. The program has immeasurably contributed to environmental health, quality of life, recreation, and sustainability in Florida for future generations.
- A 2005 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that 78% of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever Program.
- In Gainesville, the benefits of the Florida Forever Program have included the Sweetwater Park Development, the Hogtown Creek Greenway recreational trail system, Cofrin Park acquisition, Possum Creek Park development, and the Morningside Nature Park open air classroom.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

XII. Encourage a Mix of Incomes in Florida Housing Finance Corporation Programs

The City of Gainesville supports efforts to encourage a mix of incomes in housing developments that are assisted by programs that are administered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

Key Points:

- The Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) administers a variety of housing programs that benefit tenants and homeowners throughout the state;
- Although many FHFC programs currently allow for a mix of incomes in program beneficiaries, those projects that have a higher percentage of low and very low-income beneficiaries tend to score higher and thus are awarded funding and/or tax credits by the FHFC;
- The City supports efforts on the part of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to change its criteria to promote a greater mix of incomes through the competitive scoring of FHFC project proposals.

Contacts: Russ Blackburn, City Manager or Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager

Florida League of Cities Legislative Priorities and Key Issues

The City of Gainesville is a member of the Florida League of Cities (FLC). Members of the Gainesville City Commission and City of Gainesville staff participate in the FLC legislative policy setting process serving on all FLC Legislative Policy Councils. The City Commission generally supports the legislative priorities and key issue positions adopted by FLC. Through the duration of the Legislative Session, City of Gainesville representatives will communicate our position on specific legislation and our concurrence or difference with the FLC position. As a Charter City under the Florida Constitution, the City of Gainesville supports the Home Rule Authority of local governments.