

Recommended 2006 State Legislative Priorities City of Gainesville Legislative Subcommittee

Project Funding Requests

The City requests funding assistance from the State of Florida for the following projects that have either a statewide or an area wide impact.

1. Regional Traffic Management Project

The City of Gainesville seeks \$16 Million in funding for a Traffic Management System for the Gainesville Urban Area. This traffic management system will enhance transportation in the Gainesville Urban Area. It will improve emergency response (City and County Fire Rescue, Police, and Sheriff's Office); enhance mass transit (Regional Transit System); provide for incident management and special event management; provide for real time motorist info; reduce congestion and delay on corridor roadways; and, provide for homeland security.

Participating agencies include: City of Gainesville Public Works; Alachua County Public Works; Gainesville Fire-Rescue Department; Alachua County Fire-Rescue Department, Alachua County Department of Emergency Management; Gainesville Police Department; Alachua County Sheriff's Office; Regional Transit System; North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; and the University of Florida.

2. Water Project Requests

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

- Sweetwater Branch/Paynes Prairie Pollutant Treatment Wetland Project. (\$2 Million estimated cost).
- Watershed Management Project for Sweetwater Branch and its Tributaries. (\$1.808 Million estimated cost).
- Duval Stormwater Park Project. (\$1.2 Million estimated cost).
- Little Hatchet/Lake Forest Creek Watershed Management Plans. (\$500,000 estimated cost).
- Hogtown Creek Restoration Plan. (\$3.6 Million estimated cost).
- Tumblin Creek Wetland Restoration Project. (\$1.37 Million estimated cost).

3. Regional Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative

The City of Gainesville requests \$150,000 of funding assistance from the State of Florida to assist with construction of a new facility to expand the capacity of the Reichert House Program.

4. Regional Groundwater Monitoring Network and Protection of Water Supply

The City requests \$1,500,000 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 the Cabot/Koppers site, or other contamination sources years in advance of it reaching the City's water supply wells. 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 FDEP 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.

5. Extension of Centralized Potable Water to Low Income Residents

The City of Gainesville requests \$390,000 for connecting low income families to a centralized potable water system. The City is providing matching funding in the amount of approximately \$275,000, as well as in-kind engineering services which will enable extension of potable water infrastructure to homeowners' properties and cover the costs for connection charges. The funding being requested will pay for on-site plumbing costs necessary for homeowners to convert from private wells to centralized water service. The program is a multi-year program. Funding being requested for fiscal year 2006 totals \$390,000. This amount, combined with funding provided by the City of Gainesville under its ConnectFREE program, will enable 390 low income families to be connected to potable water service free of charge.

Legislative Requests

Tier One

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

Position:

The City of Gainesville supports an amendment to §119.07, Fla. Stat., 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.

2. First Responder Funding Issue

Position:

The City 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 getting DHS funds directly and expeditiously into the hands of local first responders and agencies.

3. Encourage a Mix of Incomes in Florida Housing Finance Corporation Programs**Position:**

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.

4. Amend Regulations Governing Use of Student Fees by Community Colleges to Support Transit Services**Position:**

The City of Gainesville supports Santa Fe Community College's request to amend the regulations governing the use of Community College student fees to permit their use in support of transit service.

5. Beer Keg Registration**Position:**

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

Tier Two**1. Prohibiting Pricing and Marketing of Alcoholic Beverages****Position:**

The City supports an amendment to Chapter 562 FSS to curtail binge drinking. The legislature is asked to include language in Chapter 562 of the State Statutes which prohibits the promotion, pricing and marketing of alcoholic beverages in ways which tend to encourage excessive and/or uncontrollable consumption of liquor resulting in increased risk to consumers and the general public, or authorize municipalities to regulate the marketing and advertising of drink specials in all establishments that serve alcoholic beverages.

2. Use of Cameras for Enforcement of Red Light Violations**Position:**

The City 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.

3. Operations of Radios or Other Mechanical Sound-Making Devices or Instruments in Vehicles: Loud Car Stereos "Boom Box Initiative"**Position:**

The City of Gainesville supports an amendment to Chapter 316.3045 FSS 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.

4. Continue Funding for Affordable Housing

Position:

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

5. Support for Community Redevelopment Agencies

Position:

The City supports maintaining Chapter 163 FSS in a format that leaves control of Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) to the local governing body.

6. Front Porch Florida Program

Position:

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