

The Honorable Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson, Chair
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Post Office Box 5547
Gainesville, FL 32627

Dear Chair Hutchinson:

Fire Station Alerting is used by the Combined Communications Center to notify first responders in the City and County of calls for service. The age and lack of compatibility of the existing separate systems cause delays and ineffective dispatching of emergency units.

Currently, the County is using a legacy system comprised of 1970s- and 1980s-era technology and the City has funded a significant upgrade to its now decade-old system to be fully digital and provide a more supportable platform.

The opportunity for the County to join the City project will provide a compatible and more efficient and effective system. Sharing an integrated system provides for faster response times, substantial efficiencies, and immediate interoperability between Alachua County Fire Rescue and Gainesville Fire Rescue.

I have attached the City staff analysis with more details and, with the support of the City Commission, encourage the Board of County Commissioners to consider partnering with the City on this project.

Through such collaboration mutual gains can be achieved that directly affect public safety and quality of emergency services for our citizens.

Sincerely,

Lauren Poe
Mayor

xc: City Commissioners
Anthony Lyons, City Manager
Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager
Nicolle Shalley, City Attorney
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Dr. Lee Niblock, County Manager
Michele L. Lieberman, County Attorney
Gainesville Fire Chief Jeff Lane
Alachua County Fire Chief Bill Northcutt