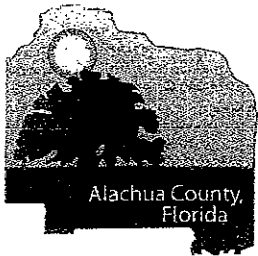


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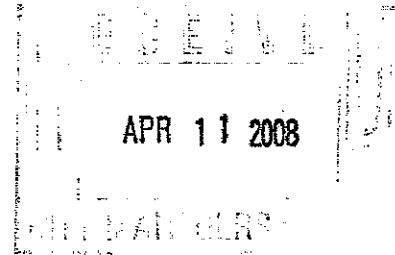
Board of County Commissioners

**ALACHUA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES
POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAM**

John Skelly, Director
jskelly@alachuacounty.us

April 9, 2008

Honorable Pegeen Hanrahan, Mayor
City of Gainesville
P. O. Box 490, Station 19
Gainesville, FL 32602



Dear Mayor Hanrahan:

As you may recall, I had the opportunity to meet with you on February 28, 2008 regarding Alachua County Commission Chairman Rodney Long's request that the City agree to co-sponsor (along with the County and several other area organizations) a Hunger Summit, which would lead to the development of a Gainesville/Alachua County Hunger Abatement Plan. DC&F and United Way have agreed to be co-sponsors, and the School Board will consider functioning as such fairly soon.

We also discussed various ideas, including you and Chairman Long acting as Co-Chairs of the Hunger Summit event; obtaining a fee waiver for use of the MLK Multi-Purpose Center; availability of City staff to assist with the planning of the event; and some funding from the City (no more than \$2,000 to be added to County funding).

Your agreement with each of these requests led me to move forward with creation of a Summit Planning Group, and I informed City staff (Asst. City Manager Fred Murry and Block Grant Manager Jim Hencin) of our conversation and your support for the project.

The planning group met last week and has made substantial progress towards organizing a half-day event on the morning of September 18, 2008. Your staff and Chairman Long's staff have indicated that your schedules would allow you both to participate in the morning on that date. We are seeking a keynote speaker (who may be Florida's Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp or Ms. Grace Nelson, Senator Nelson's wife) both of whom are involved in hunger abatement efforts, and we have chosen a tentative theme: "Homeland Security begins in the Kitchen".

This letter is to confirm my understanding of your support for the summit and ask that you authorize City staff to place this event in your schedule and for City Management to begin whatever internal processes are needed to implement the arrangements outlined above. We have initiated the process of booking the MLK Center and applying for a fee

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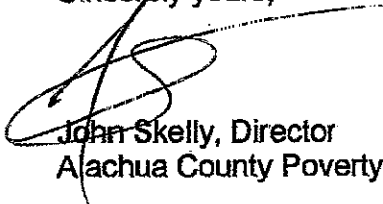
Summary/Update of Hunger Summit Planning April 24, 2008

- On February 4, 2008 “Home Van” (food services for homeless organization) representatives and County staff met with Alachua County Commission Chairman Rodney Long pursuant to a request that the City and County sponsor a town meeting regarding hunger issues.
- After review of issues such as access to USDA food programs, and unprecedented stress on local food banks, charities, soup kitchens, USDA commodities distributors, faith based organizations, and other entities including grocery stores and restaurants, which attempt to address hunger and food insecurity in Alachua County, Chairman Long asked staff to plan a Hunger Summit, to be sponsored in collaboration with City of Gainesville and other entities. Entities which have agreed to be Co-sponsors include Alachua County Commission, City of Gainesville Commission, United Way of North Central Florida, and Florida Dept. of Children & Families (DCF). School Board of Alachua County will consider joining as a co-sponsor at their meeting on May 9, 2008. Also, “Participating Agencies and Organizations” will be asked to contribute their support for this effort, and will include private businesses, public agencies, faith based organizations, civic groups, and others.
- The Summit would conclude with community agreement to proceed with a planning process leading to a Hunger Abatement Plan to address: increased access to federal USDA programs; coordination among food/meals providers; local marketing activities; and local positive economic benefits to private businesses because of increased access to federal food dollars. USDA and other estimates suggests that several millions of dollars in economic impact is available (in Alachua County alone) if we increase participation in Food Stamps by 5% to 10%. (Only 55% of those eligible in Alachua County obtain Food Stamp benefits.)
- Summit planning activities are in close collaboration with the Alachua County Coalition for Homeless and Hungry - Hunger Work Group, the County Poverty Reduction Advisory Board, and the DCF ACCESS program (to improve access to Food Stamps, TANF and Medicaid) as well as the Florida Coalition to End Childhood Hunger and its 10 Point Plan (see www.flimpact.org website).
- The Summit planning committee (composed of co-sponsor representatives and other interested individuals) has met several times, and outlined an agenda for the half-day Summit (will occur on the morning of September 18, 2008), tentative keynote speakers, location, and is planning for all associated Summit logistics. County Commission Chairman Long and City of Gainesville Mayor Hanrahan will be co-chairs of the event.

waiver. I understand that this same booking process includes requesting that the City 'co-sponsor' a booked event. Any assistance you or City staff can provide as we move through the City's internal processes would be most appreciated.

Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Skelly", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Skelly, Director
Alachua County Poverty Reduction Program

Xc: Russ Blackburn, City Manager
Fred Murry, Asst. City Manager
Jim Hencin, Block Grant Manager