

Resolution on rights of free speech and public assembly. Adopted by the North Central Florida Central Labor Council at its monthly meeting, February 14, 2011.

TO: Mayor Lowe and members of the City Commission

It is our understanding that the City Commission has before it proposals to enhance the ability of citizens to exercise rights of free speech and assembly at Butler Plaza. The North Central Florida Central Labor Council strongly endorses measures aimed at having this effect. It urges the Commission to adopt measures designed to protect "the right to assemble and hold public speeches or demonstrations in . . . areas within Butler Plaza" having the character of "public forum" spaces.¹

Butler Plaza is an integral part of the community. Its viability as a commercial property depends on the presence of public means of access, fire and police protection, and utilities. The encouragement of public discourse and civic engagement is a fundamental obligation of government. Rights of free speech and assembly are too important to be left to the discretion of private parties such as S. Clark Butler Properties, Ltd.



Gunnar Paulson
President
North Central Florida Central Labor Council

CITY OF GAINESVILLE
CITY COMMISSION
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¹Reference is to Robert E. Stanley to the Mayor and Commissioners, December 10, 2010.