

LEGISLATIVE #

110258A

October 15, 2012

Pegeen Hanrahan
1938 NW 7th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32603

Dear Pegeen:

I'm writing regarding our meeting about Nathan Collier's interest in acquiring City land adjacent to his property along the Hogtown Creek Greenway. As you know, Mr. Collier's interest in acquiring this property was referred to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee which resulted in creation of a draft policy for disposition of conservation lands. The draft policy was reviewed and revised by City staff, the Natures Centers Commission, and the City Attorney's Office. After reviewing the draft policy, the Committee requested that staff make changes and bring the revised policy back to the Committee for further discussion. That meeting has not yet occurred. If the City Commission wishes to provide an opportunity for Mr. Collier to potentially acquire the property before the Land Disposition Policy is finalized and adopted, there are a couple of options that could be considered.

The first option is based on existing Public Works Real Estate Guidelines. The City would need to have this parcel delineated from the larger parcel, declared surplus by the City Commission, and publicly advertised for sale. The property would then need to be made available for sale through an open bidding process with the City likely establishing a minimum acceptable bid.

Another option the City Commission could entertain would be a land swap for environmentally sensitive land that is on the City's targeted Priority Acquisition list. The City would need to have this parcel delineated from the larger parcel, declared surplus by the City Commission, and publicly advertised for a land swap. This property would then need to be made available through a proposal process that would allow interested parties the opportunity to propose land swaps with the City that would be evaluated by City staff, the Nature Centers Commission, and approved by the City Commission.

If Mr. Collier provides the City with a written request regarding his interest in the property, the City Commission can determine if they would like to consider surplusing the property to make it available for purchase or a land swap.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Russ Blackburn
City Manager

Cc: Arthur Stockwell, Collier Accounting & Technology, LLC (CAT)
Nicolle Shalley, City Attorney
Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager
Steven R. Phillips, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Director