

July 7, 2016

Honorable Robert Hutchison  
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  
P.O. Box 2877  
Gainesville, FL 32602-2877

Dear Hutch:

At the City Commission's May 12, 2016 General Policy Committee meeting, a City Staff Analysis on "Voter Referendum on the Extensions of Wild Spaces Public Places" was discussed. Attached is a copy of the analysis which in essence sought direction and provided the City Commission the opportunity to discuss the distribution formula for the upcoming Wild Spaces Public Places ballot initiative.

The last communication on this topic was in a letter from Dr. Lee Niblock received on February 8, 2016 requesting the project lists due on February 19, 2016. As requested in the letter, a list of potential City/County partnership projects that may be of mutual interest to both the City and County was included.

At the General Policy Committee meeting on May 12, 2016, the general consensus of the Committee was to support a distribution that would use the State Default Formula with a \$6 million set-aside from the County's share of funding (equivalent to the projected difference in revenue to the City of Gainesville between the original Wild Spaces Public Places distribution formula and the State Default Formula). The County would use \$3 million of the set-aside to partner with the City of Gainesville on City projects that have a County-wide impact. The additional \$3 million would be available to all municipalities (including the City of Gainesville) to submit funding requests to the County for partnership projects with a Countywide impact. I informed the Committee members you and I had met to discuss this and we agreed to support the above concept.

There had been discussion by both the City and County Commissions about moving up the date of the next Joint Meeting of the City and County Commissions but it now appears that will not happen before the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 22, 2016.

The City Commission encourages the County Commission to endorse the proposed distribution. I look forward to hearing from you soon so we can move ahead.

Sincerely,

Lauren Poe, Mayor

(Attachments)