



City of Gainesville

Craig Lowe, Mayor

July 21, 2010

Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Chair
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 2877
Gainesville, FL 32602

Dear Chair Chestnut:

On behalf of the Gainesville City Commission, I am writing this letter to clarify the City's position on the One Stop Homeless Assistance Center (Center). The Center is a major initiative within the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. To this end, the City and the County have both provided technical and financial support of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. The City of Gainesville was given the task of finding a suitable site for the Center. More than 125 sites were reviewed for the Center including County owned sites.

As a part of this initiative, a One Stop Homeless Assistance Center Workgroup was created by City Staff which consisted of members from the Alachua County Housing Authority, the Gainesville/Alachua County Office on Homelessness, two members from the Association of Businesses and Concerned Citizens of North Main Street, a local Attorney, a member from the Alachua County Board of County Commission Administrative Staff, and staff from the City's General Services Department, Housing & Community Development Division, Public Works Department, and the City Manager's office to review the pros and cons of sites throughout the City and the County.

On April 16, 2009 the Gainesville Commission authorized the City Manager or designee to negotiate the purchase of the ADC site which is located in the 800 Block of NW 53rd Avenue. The City has committed \$4.1 million dollars for the construction of the site. The City has made two deposits in the amount of \$50,000 each on the site and the final payment is due upon the completion of the zoning of the property. The approval of the Design Plat is scheduled for July 15, 2010. The selection of the design/build firm is scheduled for August 5, 2010. The approval of the Planned Development Ordinance is scheduled for October 2010.

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The City of Gainesville is requesting for the Alachua County Board of County Commission to honor its commitment to share in the operational costs of the Center. The City estimates annual costs to be \$154,000. On October 30, 2006, at a Joint City and County Commission meeting, both commissions made a commitment to share the operational cost only (see the attachment A - Minutes of the October 30, 2006 meeting). Operational costs include social services such as counseling, training, medical examination, referral and case management, as well as facility maintenance.

In contrast to the operational and social service functions of the Center, the City is not requesting that the County share the costs of Residential Service at the Center (the Office on Homelessness will likely coordinate with a nonprofit organization to run that service which is anticipated to consist of 60 beds). Additionally, the City is not asking the County to participate in the funding of the Transportation Services for the Center. We believe that other funding and service alternatives exist that may be able to provide these services to the Homeless. Therefore, we are only asking for shared funding for the operational costs.

The Gainesville City Commission welcomes the opportunity to discuss the One Stop Homeless Assistance Center, and the previous and future funding commitments for the operation of the Center. The City Commission has directed City Staff to include this item on the Joint City and County Commission agenda for August 30, 2010 for further discussion. At this meeting, I hope we will be able to clarify the City and County Commission commitments and support for the Center.

Sincerely,



Craig Lowe
Mayor

cc: Randall H. Reid, County Manager
City Commission
Russ Blackburn, City Manager
Marion Radson, City Attorney
Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager ✓