



CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Department of Community Development

January 4, 2006

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ALACHUA COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL

JAN 06 2006

PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT

Mr. Randy Reid, County Manager
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
12 SE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Randy:

On December 12, 2005, the City Commission heard a request for an Exchange of Property between the City of Gainesville and the State of Florida Division of Forestry.

Under the land exchange agreement, the Division of Forestry would receive 50 acres of the 200-acre City-owned Wacahoota property. The City would, in return, receive the 5-acre Smokey Bear Park and Division of Forestry office complex and maintenance compound, which is located at the corner of NE 15th Street and NE 23rd Avenue in the City of Gainesville.

The Division of Forestry's intent is to relocate their current Waccasassa Forestry Center office/maintenance compound within 10 acres of the 50-acre property exchange.

During the City Commission meeting, a member of the Alachua County Land Conservation Board and members of the public requested that the City Commission allow Alachua County, through the Alachua County Forever program, to purchase the City-owned Wacahoota property, rather than approving the land exchange with the Division of Forestry.

Following both citizen comments and discussion among the Gainesville City Commissioner's, the Commission voted to take one of two courses of action. First, to request a commitment from the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners to purchase the City-owned Wacahoota Site under the Alachua County Forever program with a written commitment to be received by February 15, 2006. Secondly, should the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners choose not to purchase the property, or fail to respond by February 15, 2006, the City Commission has authorized me to proceed with the property exchange with State of Florida Division of Forestry.

Please notify me of the intent of either Alachua County Forever or the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners regarding the purchase of the Wacahoota property. Again, should there be no response on purchasing the Wacahoota property by February 15, 2006, the City of Gainesville will proceed with the property exchange.

Sincerely,

Russ Blackburn
City Manager

CC: Mayor and City Commission
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
 Alachua County Forever

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