



Staff Analysis

## City/UF Partnership

Presented by:  
Carrie Bush, Strategic Initiatives  
Director

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# CITY OF GAINESVILLE STAFF ANALYSIS

**Legistar No: 170385**

**Title: City/UF Partnership**

**City Staff Contact: Carrie Bush, Strategic Initiatives Director**

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## Summary of the Issue

The purpose of the City/UF Partnership is to provide the foundation for a strategic and transformative collaboration between the City of Gainesville and the University of Florida, to benefit the broader community. Information related to the Partnership's current status as well as opportunities to further solidify this collaboration will be shared with the Commission for discussion.

## History/Background Information

Eight months ago, the City/University partnership was adopted through a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Mayor Lauren Poe and University of Florida President Kent Fuchs. The MOU states that it is, "the University's and the City's shared intention to formalize a collaborative relationship between the Parties to improve communications; to identify and execute joint projects; to establish forum(s) for ongoing collaborative dialogue; and to work together for mutual benefit in areas including, but not limited to, economic opportunity, business development, housing, neighborhoods, culture and the arts, safety, transportation, technology, and environmental stewardship. It is the intent of the Parties to ensure that appropriate resources, including human and intellectual, are applied in the identification and resolution of issues that advance the Parties' strategic plans and move the University campus and City community toward preeminence."

Since signing the MOU, significant progress has been made with the Partnership in the following areas:

- *Autonomous and Connected Vehicles:* The City, UF and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) have developed shared projects related to the deployment of connected vehicles and related infrastructure. The City is planning the implementation of an autonomous transit shuttle system to operate as a connector between downtown Gainesville and the UF campus. This project also anticipates the testing of connected vehicle technology and applications along corridors surrounding the UF main campus, with the goal of improving travel time reliability, throughput, and traveler information. This effort also plans to deploy pedestrian and bicyclist safety applications.

- *Research Awards*: In April, funding was allocated to UF faculty and community Principal Investigators for research projects that utilize the campus and greater Gainesville community as a living laboratory to address real-world problems in our local community. Over 62 proposals were received from approximately 40 departments and centers. Seven proposals were ultimately funded with over \$300,000 in total awards, in the areas of health, business development & entrepreneurship, neighborhood vitality, early childhood education autonomous vehicle technology and energy.
- *City/UF Fellows Program with the Bob Graham Center*: In August, the first UF Fellows began their work within the Strategic Initiatives Department. Modeled as a design team, the Fellows have focus areas of Digital Services, Research & Prototyping, Engagement & Visual Design. The Fellows have already begun to contribute high quality work to advance Partnership and City objectives in areas such as the Gainesville Business Portal, Open Data systems and the Volunteer Corps.
- *Connecting Talent*: Subject specific meetings/workgroups have been hosted between the City and UF to foster discussion and shared planning in critical areas of including Smart Cities, Community-based Research, Arts & Culture, Civic Spaces, and Community Engagement. These discussions involve subject matter experts from both the City and UF, which will help guide collaboration and implementation of shared objectives.

As next steps, a governance structure is proposed to further pursue the objectives surrounding shared planning, implementation, resourcing and community impact related to the Partnership.

#### **Fiscal Note**

This is an informational/discussion item.

#### **Staff Recommendation**

1. To receive a presentation
2. To provide feedback regarding the City/UF Partnership

#### **Attachments**

Executed Memorandum of Understanding