

May 15, 2006

Gainesville City Commission
 P. O Box 490, Station 19
 Gainesville, FL 32601-0490

Dear Mayor Hanrahan and Board of City Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on the legislative objectives for the City of Gainesville. Again, I have found the support of the City staff and legislative delegation and their staff to be very supportive. While we will celebrate accomplishing some of our objectives, we will continue the effort to realize success on others.

Local Project Funding Issues

- Gainesville – Extension of Potable Water to Low Income Residents \$ 100,000
- Orange Creek Basin Initiative \$1, 250,000
- FDOT – Gainesville Purchase of Buses \$2,500,000
- Regional Traffic Management Project

Although money was not appropriated for traffic signalization, Representative Larry Cretul facilitated a meeting with the Chair of the House Transportation and Transportation Appropriation Committees. In this Tallahassee meeting, attended by the Mayor, Manager, and Staff, the traffic signalization and other strategic planning challenges to cities hosting large state institutions were discussed. Follow-up meetings will occur, which will hopefully lead to some measure of relief to the City on this topic.

- Regional Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative (Reichert House)

Delegation members had concerns that re-appropriation in the budget for the Reichert House would invite another veto. As a result of these concerns, the delegation contacted the Agency for Workforce Development. The agency is exploring possible financial assistance in the form of a contract with the Reichert House or City.

Local Legislative Issues

- Gainesville – Alachua County Regional Airport Authority – ([HB 1629](#)) codifies changes to the law creating the authority which were negotiated by the City.
- Community College Student Fees – The Legislature failed to adopt changes to Community College Student Activity Fees which would have enabled an agreement whereby community college students would have ready access to the City transit system.
- Regional Groundwater Monitoring Network – While the Legislature did not act on this issue, discussions are continuing with regulators at all levels to address the matter.
- Brownfields Redevelopment Program ([HB 7131](#)) enhances tax credits to stimulate cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated brownfields or drycleaning sites and requires Enterprise Florida, Inc., to aggressively market brownfields.

Other Issues of Interest

- Eminent Domain

In response to the U. S. Supreme Court ruling allowing the use of eminent domain powers for economic development purposes, the Legislature approved a proposed amendment for voter approval ([HJR 1569](#)) and legislation ([HB 1567](#)) which has been signed into law by the Governor, both restricting the use of eminent domain powers of local government.

- Community Redevelopment

The Legislature adopted changes to the Community Redevelopment law which were negotiated by the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties ([HB 1583](#)). The changes do not apply to charter counties or existing community redevelopment agreements in effect prior to October 1, 2006. The changes provide for additional procedures and control for community redevelopment plans. The new law also provides that interlocal agreements may supersede the statute in limited circumstances.

- Affordable Housing

A major project of the session ([HB 1363](#)) updated many provisions of Florida's affordable housing programs. Additionally, the bill addresses workforce affordable housing. It creates the Community Workforce Housing Innovation Pilot Program for the purpose of providing affordable rental and home ownership opportunities for essential services personnel with medium incomes in high cost and high growth counties. It is designed to encourage public-private partnerships and to leverage government and private resources.

- Growth Management

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1194 ([CS/SB 1194](#)) creates the "Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement Act" to provide an alternative process for annexation that allows good faith negotiations between cities and counties to identify municipal service areas and unincorporated service areas, resolve service conflicts within municipal service areas, and reduce the number of enclaves.

As stated above, we will continue to work to find success on unresolved issues. It is a pleasure to work with the Commission and its staff. Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely

H. Douglas Bruce

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