

RESOLUTION NO. 051104

PASSED March 27, 2006

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA;
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY BASED
INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS
FOR EX-OFFENDERS; AND PROVIDING AN
IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville in support of the Ex-Offender Resolution presented by the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials; and

WHEREAS, at the end of 1999, nearly 6.3 million adults were incarcerated or on parole, and in 2002, the nation's state and federal prison and local jail population exceeded 2 million for the first time in history;

WHEREAS, more than 600,000 adults will be released from state and federal prisons and many more than that will be released from city and county jails this year;

WHEREAS, rates of recidivism are high with close to two-thirds of former local and state prisoners being rearrested within three years of their release and over half being jailed again either for a new offense or for violating the terms of their release;

WHEREAS, rate of incarceration are substantially higher for minorities, especially African-American males, and lower income populations;

WHEREAS, incarceration has a dramatic effect on the family structure and children of prisoners have a 70% greater chance of being incarcerated;

WHEREAS, released prisoners face a multitude of problems, including homelessness, lack of job opportunities, educational deficits, mental health issues, substance abuse, infectious diseases, causing increased costs and burdens for cities; and

WHEREAS, the current system can perpetuate financial, psychological and social failure for the released prisoner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, prisoner reintegration must be emphasized as soon as a prisoner enters a correctional institution with emphasis placed on identifying a prisoner's specific risk factors, providing treatment while in custody and following up with community based treatment once the prisoner is released;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the federal government must provide local and state governments with resources for transitional services to all released prisoners in the area of housing, education, mental health treatment, substance abuse counseling, employment opportunities and health care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should provide grant money for community-based intervention and treatment programs focusing on the issues of housing, job opportunities and training, mental health screening and treatment, substance abuse, healthcare, education and family reunification.


The Clerk of the Commission is authorized and directed to send copies of this Resolution to members of the Florida Congressional Delegation and the National League of Cities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27 day of March 2006.



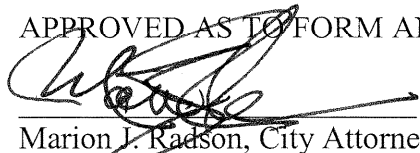
Pegeen Hanrahan, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kurt Lannon,
Clerk of the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



Marion J. Radson, City Attorney

APR 11 2006