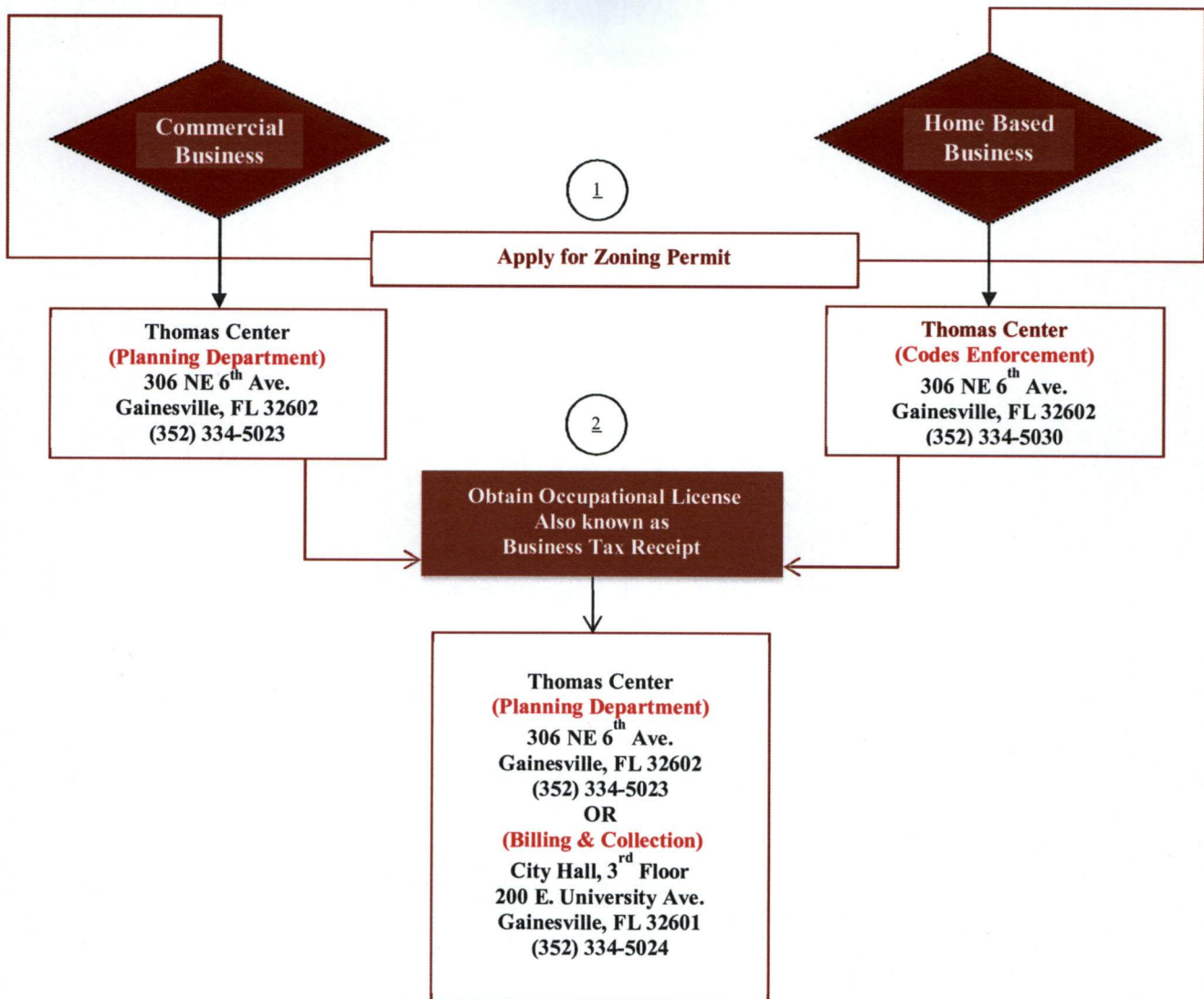


Starting a Business in the City of Gainesville



- 1) **Applying for a Zoning Permits-** Inspection for construction, signage, remodeling, and leasehold improvements to leased spaces should be handled when applying for Zoning Permits. Zoning Permits are free of charge. It is strongly recommended that Zoning Compliance Permits be obtained before any business owner enters into any lease/purchase agreement with owners of property and prior to paying for business taxes. This will help a business owner avoid making expenditures if the property is not zoned for the proposed business.
- 2) **Obtaining an Occupational License:** Occupational Taxes can be paid at either location listed above in the diagram. They can also be paid by visiting the City of Gainesville website at [www.cityofgainesville.org/ Business/ Pay Business Tax](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/Business/PayBusinessTax). Fees vary according to type of business and must be paid annually.

Starting a Business in the City of Gainesville

Additional Resources

- **Fictitious Name Registration/Inquiries** Florida Department of State Division of Corporations (850) 245-6058, Register/Search electronically, www.sunbiz.org
- **American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance:** Alachua County EO-105 SE 2nd Ave. Gainesville, FL 32601
- **Beverage/Liquor License** (FL DBPR, Div. of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, 240 NW 76th Drive, Suite B, Gainesville, FL 32607, 352-333-2515)

Health Permits

- **Lodging & Restaurants/Food Service:** FL DBPR, Div. of Hotels & Restaurants, 3300 Building, 2nd Floor, Suite 254B, 4161 Carmichael Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32207-2353, (850) 487-1395
- **Retail food stores (convenient stores, supermarkets):** FL Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services, 3125 Conner Blvd, Suite H, Tallahassee, FL 32399, (850)245-5520, (800)435-7352, www.doacs.state.fl.us
- **Other establishments serving food (child care, nursing home, bar/tavern, mobile & vending units, theaters, etc.):** Alachua County Health Dept., 224 SE 24th St., Gainesville, FL 32641, (352)334-7900
- **Environmental Permit** for any business that is an actual or potential polluting source: FL EPA, Northeast District, 7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite B200, Jacksonville, FL 32256, 904-807-3300)

Useful Websites

Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.gainesvillechamber.com>
United States Patent Office: <http://www.uspto.gov>
Small Business Association: <http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov>
US Securities and Exchange Commission: <http://www.sec.gov>
Business records: <http://www.sunbiz.org>
IRS: <http://www.irs.gov>
Florida Department of Revenue: <http://www.myflorida.com/dor>
Florida Small Business Development: <http://www.sbdc.unf.edu>
Gainesville Economic Development Department: <http://www.cityofgainesville.org>
SCORE Counselors to America's Small Businesses: <http://www.scoregainesville.org>
Small Business Administration: <http://www.sba.gov>