

OVERVIEW/SUMMARY OF FEDERAL LOBBYIST SERVICES

A MULTI-YEAR REVIEW OF SELECTIVE FEDERAL RELATIONS OUTCOMES AND SERVICES

Marilyn Berry Thompson and her team have played an effective role in assisting the City of Gainesville in shaping and advancing the City's federal relations program and agenda. This role and the services provided have been extensively and regularly reviewed following their initiation in 1994.

OVERVIEW/SUMMARY OF SERVICES

Thompson and MWW provide the following comprehensive services. They are provided on an unlimited basis; there is no limit on the number of hours, or the number of tasks that can be assigned.

- Key Role in Shaping/Designing an Annual, Targeted Federal Agenda for the City, a process which has led to significant incremental and focused, organized support from Congress and funding to the City.

- Congressional/Legislative Information and Advocacy Services
 - Reporting on, tracking and shaping any/all federal legislative developments that could affect the City
 - Undertaking all advocacy activities appropriate to identify and support key federal programs and agencies which provide, or could provide support to the City
 - Identifying legislation which could be utilized as a vehicle to advance specific City goals, developing and implementing strategies to secure specific outcomes for the city;
 - Coordinating and implementing such advocacy with the Florida Congressional Delegation, all other appropriate committees and Members, and appropriate city partners.

- Federal Agency/Executive Branch – Reporting and Advocacy Activities
 - Advancing Gainesville specific federal agenda goals/projects
 - Providing Notice/Analysis of Funding Opportunities, Executive

Branch Initiatives

- Organizing Strategies, Meetings with Key Executive Branch Officials
- Organizing Advocacy Support for Gainesville Federal Grant Submissions, as appropriate

- Organize and support Gainesville Official Meetings with Members of Congress, Executive Branch and Federal Agency leaders, and/or with key national organizations (Conference of Mayors, League of Cities).
 - Organize Washington Meeting Schedules
 - Providing in-depth briefing materials to facilitate meetings
 - Provide appropriate logistical and staff support.

- Targeted Problem-Solving, Research and Analytical Services
 - Undertake unlimited number of targeted assignments to
 - Resolve funding issues with federal agencies
 - Identify specific solutions to identified problems/challenges
 - Undertake targeted research and analysis.

Changing and Recent Activities

For many years, Thompson and her team were able to secure a wide range of specific “earmarks” within federal appropriations and authorization legislation. Highlights of those activities totaling well over \$ are provided below.

However, Congress eliminated all such “targeted funding provisions” as of 2010. Since that time, Thompson and her team have undertaken, in cooperation with the city, much intensified efforts to target both legislation and federal proposals to advantage/support City needs and goals; to increase a focus n federal agency interaction, advocacy and grantsmanship.

We have provided some highlights of both targeted legislative and appropriations outcomes, as well as non-appropriations activities and tasks.

Highlights of such recent activity, in a post-earmark federal world, include:

- Organization and staffing of a multiple number of Washington-based meetings for Gainesville officials, meetings with the Congressional Delegation, with Agency officials, with national organizations.
- A specific example most recently would be the pro-active strategy being undertaken on the 62nd Blvd project.

Other examples have included

- **Kennedy Homes** – Throughout the year, we continued our efforts to achieve the early termination of the current use agreement on the original Kenney Homes site. The Mayor, City Attorney and various other City Officials have attended meetings in Washington with Members of Congress and HUD officials to discuss the overall SE Gainesville Renaissance Initiative and the early termination of the use agreement, and most recently, Representative Brown engaged the Chairman of the House Committee that oversees HUD to investigate the matter on the City's behalf. Finally, after the spring fire in one of the units, we worked with Senator Nelson's and HUD to gain permission for the total demolition of the site.
- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program** – Another successful outcome for the City, as well as the entire local government community was the inclusion of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in the final Energy Bill. The provision creates a new block grant, similar to the Community Development Block Grant, to authorize the appropriation of \$10 billion (\$2 billion annually for fiscal years 2008 - 2012) directly to states, cities, counties, and tribes for programs to support locally developed energy and climate strategies.

Highlights of Targeted Legislative/Appropriations Outcomes

This brief summary is intended to provide you with selective highlights of over \$70 million in federal relations outcomes and activities in five (5) key areas – Community Development and Parks; Economic Development and Special Projects; Housing and Homeless; Criminal Justice and Transportation.

Note: This report represents selective highlights. It is not all-inclusive but representative of the outcomes achieved.

Community Development, Parks \$6.4+ million

This includes the \$1 million in targeted appropriations for the MLK Center and \$400,000 for Cone Park, as well as a multi-year strategy to either increase allocations or special initiatives to preserve allocations for the City through the CDBG and HOME block grant programs. We have not included the annual CDBG/HOME allocations in this total; only the value of any special legislative initiative.

Housing and Homeless \$7.7+ million

This category includes the \$1.7 million in targeted congressional appropriations achieved for the Cedar Grove project, and the \$1.9 million in special Continuum of Care grants and advocacy campaigns.

Economic and Special Development Initiatives \$9.1+ million

This includes the Jordan Burt-originated EDA grant strategy and special supplemental funding secured for the Incubator Project (\$1.71 million); the series of Sweetwater and Depot Avenue Project special appropriations and targeted grant strategies through EPA special appropriations and authorizations (over \$5.8 million); and EPA-based Brownfields and Sustainable Development grants totaling \$1.3+ million.

Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement \$10+ million

This cumulative total is comprised of four major component strategies, including: (1) Multi-Year Law Enforcement Block Grant Campaign (2) Multi-Year Community Policing Grant Campaign (3) Multi-Year WEED & SEED Campaign (4) Special Appropriations for Technology and JAC; (5) enhanced support through federal-state block grant initiative.

Transportation and Airport Development Support

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\$29+ million

This total reflects the sum of special Congressional appropriation and authorization provisions that targeted specific funding authority to Gainesville for transportation infrastructure improvements, including capital funds for the City's Regional Transit System (RTS). This category also includes funding for the Airport, including special legislation and executive branch negotiations that led to the further development of Airport Industrial Park and the securing of \$1.35 million in special FAA/AIP noise grant funds. It also includes the following funding for many road and transit infrastructure initiatives secured in the recent SAFETEA-LU Transportation Authorization Act.

SAFETEA-LU (reauthorization of TEA 21) highlights include:

Projects from the Bus and Bus Facilities Account

- **\$1,000,000** "City of Gainesville, Regional Transit System Facility Expansion"
- **\$3,344,000** "Gainesville, FL Bus Facility Expansion"
- **\$3,344,000** "Gainesville, FL Bus Replacement"
- **\$418,000** "Gainesville, FL Bus Rapid Transit study"

Projects from the High Priority Projects Section

- **\$1,600,000** "Airport Access Road, Gainesville"
- **\$4,800,000** "Depot Avenue Enhancements, Gainesville"
- **\$1,600,000** "Roadway Construction of SW62-SW24 Avenue in Gainesville"
- **\$2,400,000** "North-South Corridor between Archer Road and Newberry Road, Gainesville"
- **\$1,500,000** "Gainesville, Alachua County, Improve North-South Corridor between Archer Rd. and Newberry Rd. to provide congestion relief to I-75 corridor, SR 21, SR, 24, SR 26"
- **\$800,000** "NE 3rd Ave. to NE 8th Ave. Road Reconstruction, Gainesville"
- **\$1,600,000** "University Ave. to NE 8th Ave. Road Reconstruction, Gainesville"

NOTE: The *Bus and Bus Facilities* projects will receive the funds over the course of 4 years, and the *High Priority Projects* funds will be spent out from FY 2005 to FY 2009 with 20% being provided in each of those years.