



Office of the City Manager

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June 6, 2016

Cultural Facilities Grant Program
Florida Department of State
Division of Cultural Affairs
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Dear Cultural Facilities Grant Program Committee:

The City of Gainesville has leased a building to the Hippodrome State Theatre since 1980, originally with a 36-year lease, then with periodic extensions. We are aware that the company is applying for a 2017-18 State of Florida Cultural Facilities Grant, and they have assured the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs that they do not have plans to change this arrangement.

This year, the Hippodrome will have only nine years left on its current lease, but the Cultural Facilities Grant Program requires a ten-year lease. The Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department is bringing this request to the City Commission at a June meeting to add a rolling extension to the lease with the Hippodrome, so that each year the lease will automatically renew for another year. This will be done as a show of faith to the State of Florida that the lease will always be in force for another decade. The request should be heard by the City Commission on June 16, 2016.

Please do not allow the lease requirement to discount the Hippodrome's application for the 2017-18 Cultural Facilities Grant Program, as the Hippodrome has had a home in downtown Gainesville for thirty-six years. The City supports the Hippodrome's efforts to bring professional theatre to the citizens of North Central Florida and intends to continue a long-term relationship.

Sincerely,

Anthony Lyons
City Manager