

Inter-Office Communication

Office of the City Manager

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

From: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

Date: December 27, 2005

SUBJECT: Status Report – Urban Reserve Area Update

On June 28, 2005, the County Commission held a public hearing to review the requests received from each municipality with respect to their Urban Reserve Areas (URAs). Gainesville requested areas that were also submitted by the Cities of Alachua, Waldo, Hawthorne, LaCrosse and Newberry. Following that meeting, staff began informal negotiations with staff from Alachua County and each of these cities. On September 12, 2005, staff presented the progress of those negotiations to the City Commission. The Commission concurred with staff's direction and indicated a specific desire to obtain all of Newnan's Lake in Gainesville's URA. Since that time staff has continued negotiations and has held neighborhood meetings in two areas; NW 93rd Avenue and Rochelle. The purpose of these meetings were to advise and inform residents of the issue and the process. The feedback received at each of those meetings is as follows:

93rd Avenue Area: The meeting was held jointly with the City of Alachua and Alachua County on November 30, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Alachua County Public Works Compound. Approximately sixty notices were mailed to property owners. Thirty-five residents attended the meeting representing eighteen of the sixty property owners. City of Gainesville staff made the following points in their presentation: a) To be included in Gainesville's Urban Reserve means that Gainesville intends to annex that area; b) Staff recently performed the necessary analysis and recommended to the City Commission that we not pursue annexing the 93rd Avenue area. The main reason being the difficulty of maintaining and/or the cost of paving the road.

Several residents voiced their concerns regarding the change in the proposal to include the area in Alachua's Urban Reserve rather than remaining in Gainesville's Urban Reserve. These residents did not express a desire to annex into either Gainesville or Alachua. Other residents in attendance did not voice any concerns with the proposal. Staff instructed all residents to contact their County Commissioners or attend the public hearing scheduled for January 10, 2006 to voice their concerns and desires.

Rochelle Area: The meeting was held jointly with Alachua County on December 6, 2005 at the Bethel Church in Rochelle at 7:00 p.m. Approximately 100 notices were sent

to property owners. Fifty-three residents attended the meeting. There was an overwhelming desire to remain in the unincorporated area and not be included in Gainesville's Urban Reserve Area. Staff instructed all residents to contact their County Commissioners or attend the public hearing scheduled for January 10, 2006 to voice their concerns and desires. The residents of Rochelle plan to deliver a petition to the County Commission expressing their desire to remain outside Gainesville's Urban Reserve Area.

Staff has continued discussions with the Town of LaCrosse regarding the provision of fire services should the City of Gainesville annex the area currently served by LaCrosse through an agreement with the County. We have included an item on the agenda for January 9th that includes a letter of intent regarding these services.

Staff will provide an update of the Urban Reserve Area negotiations and proposed boundaries (see attached map) on the meeting of January 9, 2006. At that time we will ask for input to be provided to the County Commission during their public hearing to be held on January 10, 2006.

The County is expected to adopt the boundaries and statements of services on January 10, 2006. In addition, the County will execute an interlocal agreement which recognizes the Extra Territorial Areas and describes the purpose of establishing these areas. It grants no guarantees for future inclusion into a City's Urban Reserve Area.

If you have any further questions regarding the status of the Urban Reserve Area negotiations, please feel free to call me or Becky Rountree.

Cc: Charter Officers

Barbara Lipscomb, Assistant City Manager

Becky Rountree, OMB Director

Karen Snyder, Strategic Planner