

ORDINANCE NO. 080576
0-08-87

An ordinance of the City of Gainesville, Florida; approving an amendment to the Charter Laws of the City of Gainesville; amending Article V of the Charter Laws, entitled “Special Provisions” pertaining to the protection of City-owned lands acquired or used for conservation, recreation, or cultural purposes; providing for submission of the charter amendment to the voters for approval or disapproval at the March 24, 2009 regular municipal election; approving the ballot title and summary to be placed on the ballot; providing that this charter amendment shall become effective immediately; providing directions to the codifier; providing directions to the clerk of the commission; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; providing for liberal construction and interpretation; and providing an immediate effective date.

WHEREAS, the Charter Laws of the City of Gainesville, Florida, (hereinafter “City Charter”) provides that the amendments to the City Charter may be proposed by an ordinance adopted by the City Commission by an affirmative vote of a four-fifths vote of the membership of the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the permanent protection of the City’s most significant conservation, recreation, and cultural sites is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Gainesville and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to propose for adoption an ordinance to amend the City Charter that would require referendum approval for the sale or conversion to another use of City-owned lands acquired or used for conservation, recreation, or cultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has considered this charter amendment, and by passage of this ordinance indicates its desire to approve the charter amendment as set forth herein, subject to approval of the electorate at the next regular municipal election; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to amend the City Charter pursuant to the

1 procedures provided by law; and

2 **WHEREAS**, at least 10 days notice has been given by publication in a newspaper of
 3 general circulation notifying the public of this proposed ordinance and of a Public Hearing in the
 4 Auditorium of City Hall in the City of Gainesville; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Public Hearings were held pursuant to the published notice described at
 6 which hearings the parties in interest and all others had an opportunity to be and were, in fact,
 7 heard.

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE**
 9 **CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:**

10 **Section 1.** A new Section 5.09 is created and added to Article V of the Charter Laws of
 11 the City of Gainesville, Florida, for submission to the electors of the City of Gainesville, Florida,
 12 for approval or rejection at the next municipal election set for Tuesday, March 24, 2009:

13 **5.09 Sale or conversion of City-owned lands used or acquired for conservation,**
 14 **recreation, or cultural purposes.**

15 (1) A registry is hereby created, for the purpose of identifying real properties owned in fee
 16 simple by the City of Gainesville that are acquired or used for conservation, recreation, or
 17 cultural purposes, and that are deemed by the City Commission of the City of Gainesville to
 18 be worthy of the highest level of protection. The registry shall be known as the "City of
 19 Gainesville Registry of Protected Public Places." At a public hearing the City Commission
 20 may add properties to the Registry by adopting an ordinance by a five-sevenths vote of the
 21 membership of the City Commission. The ordinance shall contain the legal description(s) of
 22 the site(s) and a description of the value(s) that support their inclusion on the Registry, and
 23 shall be recorded in the official public records.

24
 25 (2) Real properties, or portions of real properties, on the City of Gainesville Registry of
 26 Protected Public Places may not be sold, or converted to a use that will result in a loss of a
 27 value or values, as determined by the City Commission, for which a property was placed on
 28 the Registry, except by a majority vote of the electors voting in a city-wide referendum
 29 election.

30
 31 (3) The above restrictions on divestiture or change of use of property shall not apply where the
 32 property is being taken for a public purpose by the state or federal government by way of
 33 eminent domain.

1 **Section 2.** The following ballot title and summary is approved for submission to the
 2 electors of the City of Gainesville, Florida, for approval or rejection at the next municipal
 3 election set for Tuesday, March 24, 2009:

4 **CITY OF GAINESVILLE CHARTER AMENDMENT**

5
 6 **Protection of City-owned Lands Acquired or Used for Conservation, Recreation, or**
 7
 8 **Cultural Purposes**

9
 10 SHALL THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE THAT
 11 THE SALE OR CONVERSION TO ANOTHER USE OF CITY-OWNED LANDS ACQUIRED
 12 OR USED FOR CONSERVATION, RECREATION, OR CULTURAL PURPOSES BE
 13 EFFECTIVE ONLY IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS IN THE CITY
 14 IN A CITY-WIDE REFERENDUM ELECTION?

15
 16 _____ YES

17 _____ NO

18 **Section 3.** In the event that the charter amendment is approved by the voters at the March
 19 24, 2009 municipal election, then: 1) the charter amendment will become effective immediately;
 20 2) the codifier is directed to incorporate this amendment in the Charter Laws of the City of
 21 Gainesville; and 3) the Clerk of the Commission is directed to file a true copy of this ordinance
 22 with the Florida Department of State.

23 **Section 4.** If any word, phrase, clause, paragraph, section or provision of this ordinance
 24 or the application hereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid or unconstitutional, such
 25 finding shall not affect the other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given
 26 effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provisions or application, and to this end the
 27 provisions of this ordinance are declared severable.

28 **Section 5.** All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are to the extent of
 29 such conflict hereby repealed.

