

Citizen Centered Gainesville

190361A

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General Policy Meeting – State Legislative Priorities

October 24, 2019

2020 Florida Legislative Issues:

Appropriations Items

Other Issue Updates



City Commission's Select State Legislative Priorities.

- SFC Downtown Blount Center Funding
- Mental Health Receiving Facility
- Affordable Housing Trust Funds
- FL Forever/FL Communities Trust
- FDEO Job Growth Grant Fund
- Public Safety/Background Checks
- Wastewater Improvements

Priorities Awaiting Further Traction.



Affordable Housing.



Public Safety.

- Newly filed Housing Trust Fund legislation by Sen. Debbie Mayfield (SB 306); supportive Senate coalition but dependent upon Sen. Travis Hutson hearing.
- Senate President assigned Senator Tom Lee to look at violence and mass shootings; FL House action will depend on Gov. Ron DeSantis' prioritization and support for checking off the "box".
- Multiple bills filed by Senators Farmer, Book, and Rodriguez concerning background checks, sales, and transfers of firearms being monitored.

Source: www.flsenate.gov & Peebles, Smith, & Matthews.

Other Issues Supported.



Jobs.



Santa Fe College.

- FDEO Job Growth Grant Fund – Gov. DeSantis wants a recurring pot of funding; Current budget year \$45 million for Job Growth Fund. Down from \$85 million first year. DEO has requested \$85 million for upcoming budget recommendations.
- SF applied to complete Phase I of their Institute of Technology and Manufacturing; includes expansion of Welding program and addition of new program in Advanced Manufacturing.
- Santa Fe College Blount Center - Project is in design stage, currently listed at #3 on the Florida College System's Fixed Capital Outlay, with the hope that SF can begin demolition/site work around February of 2020 with support from the City.

Source: Peebles, Smith, & Matthews & <https://news.sfcollge.edu/2019/10/07/santa-fe-college-holds-groundbreaking-for-new-blount-campus-expansion/>.

Appropriations Timeline.

- Our state contract lobbyists have a Nov. 15 deadline to get all appropriations items and ideally receive further direction no later than a week prior to that deadline. We need both a House & Senate sponsor.
- Mental Health was strongly suggested.
- Septic-to-Sewer conversion is also an option, in addition to the City then applying towards an annual DEP grant as well as applying for a cost-sharing project with St. Johns Water Management District in January 2020.

Source: Peebles, Smith, & Matthews; SJWMD Staff.

Local Mental Health Need.



Huge Burden with Baker Acts:

- 3 out of 4 facilities are hospitals' emergency rooms.
- \$3-7K individual visits where individuals are triaged then need coordinated transportation.
- Many utilizers are homeless.
- No coordination with every instance individuals arrive.
- Everyday can be like Groundhog Day...

Source: **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.**

Local Mental Health Need Continued.

- A Central Receiving Facility would enhance access to timely, crisis, mental health and substance use disorder services by:
- Providing a single drop-off location for law enforcement
- Providing walk-in for emergency treatment
- Reducing burden of indigent care on Emergency Departments
- Promoting increased collaboration w/treatment

Source: **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.**



“I am very excited for what this will bring to our community. A CRF will provide quicker drop off and triage, a streamlined process for access and referral to all county behavioral health resources as well as significantly increased coordination of patient care and information sharing between local treatment centers..”

— Dr. Labarta, Meridian CEO

Capital Outlay Needed.



The missing piece is a receiving facility for those with substance abuse disorders with serious psychiatric conditions.

Care coordination, supportive aftercare services, and improved information sharing would then follow.

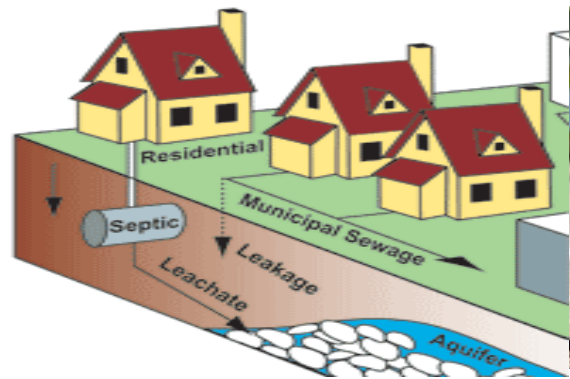
In order to make this need a reality, a 1,000 square foot expansion would be developed at Meridian's current screening area, located at its Gainesville campus.

Item	Cost	State	City	County?
General Contractor	\$419,050			
Architect/Landscaping	\$29,000			
Impact Fee	\$6,600			
Data/Security	\$10,000			
Furniture/Miscellaneous	\$24,200			
IT/Equipment	\$8,000			
Total	\$496,850	?	?	?

On Septic To Sewer.



Cleaner Water.



Better Environment.

- Reducing harm to water quality.
- Providing resources for low-income residents and seniors who cannot afford replacement of aging septic systems.
- Potential efforts on the Eastside in LMI area that effect creeks.
- Other more affluent neighborhoods could impact all of Gainesville however scoring an issue with appropriations.
- Gov. DeSantis' latest announcement and focus on improving water and changing septic inspections a priority.
- Investment to improve/enhance water infrastructure system.

Source: Peebles, Smith, & Matthews; https://www.thecentersquare.com/florida/desantis-calls-for-expanded-state-role-in-wastewater-sewer-septic/article_4c3a89fo-fodc-11e9-8dcc-2fed33efbfe2.html.

Application Request

Different pots of Funding for Applying:
Legislative Appropriations (Nov. 15 deadline),
DEP Grant (January 2020), & SJWMD Cost-Sharing (Mid-February 2020).

City originally listed \$750,000 for state appropriations request however a local match is typically expected.

Direction towards project scope and any future city commitment is needed in order to adequately move forward with a state application for appropriations.

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Thank You.