



001113.7

## CITY OF GAINESVILLE

*Department of Community Development*

**Date:** March 26, 2001

**To:** Tom Saunders AICP, Director of Community Development

**From:** Kathy Winburn<sup>W</sup> AICP, Senior Planner

**Via:** Ralph Hilliard, Planning Manager  
Dean Mimms AICP, Comprehensive Planning Chief

**Re:** Neighborhood Planning Program Update

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### **Recommendation:**

The City Commission hear an update on the Neighborhood Planning Program administered by the Community Development Department, authorize staff to add two more neighborhoods for participation, and establish a Neighbor of the Year Program.

### **Update on Progress of the Neighborhood Planning Program**

In 1998, the Pilot Neighborhood Planning Program designated two neighborhoods for participation, the Duval Neighborhood and the Grove Street Neighborhood, and allocated grant funds for neighborhood projects in City right-of-way or on City owned property. In 1999, two additional neighborhoods were added to the program, the Lincoln Estates and Hibiscus Park neighborhoods. Objectives and guidelines for the Neighborhood Planning Program are provided in Exhibit A. Major goals of the program are to empower and strengthen the neighborhood; initiate and enable intra-neighborhood communication; enhance communication and understanding between the neighborhood and the city; provide tangible physical improvements in the neighborhood; and develop a neighborhood action plan which would provide direction to the neighborhood and city departments that serve the neighborhood.

The purpose of the Neighborhood Planning Program is to work with a particular neighborhood for approximately one to two years to assist them in developing a Neighborhood Action Plan, facilitate neighborhood organization, if needed, and to implement projects with the grant dollars allocated by the City Commission. Once the initial planning process is completed, it is the intention of staff to continue as a liaison to the neighborhood, though it is up to the neighborhood to then set up meetings and continue organizational efforts if they weren't already doing so.

A Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) of city departmental representatives is assigned to each neighborhood, representing several departments. One objective of the NAT's is to solve problems in the neighborhood by combining and coordinating efforts. This has been made possible in some cases by making city staff accessible to the neighborhood and letting the residents know about the services that the city could provide to relieve some of the concerns.

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*Planning Division*

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### Lincoln Estates Neighborhood:

The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood is very well organized, and typically meets once a month at the T.B. McPherson Center. The neighborhood holds periodic clean-ups, block parties, participated in National Night Out in August 2000, and recently held a Youth Forum. Planning staff began attending Lincoln Estates Neighborhood meetings in October 1999. The neighborhood worked with city staff to identify neighborhood issues and goals, and identified several major categories which are addressed in their Neighborhood Action Plan (see Exhibit B): **Infrastructure and Traffic; Neighborhood Beautification; Codes Enforcement (Neighborhood Appearance); Neighborhood Security and Human Services/Recreation.** Staff held workshop sessions with the neighborhood, as outlined in the Neighborhood Action Plan, to identify goals and strategies for each category, and to address immediate neighborhood issues. Representatives of the Gainesville Police Department and City Codes Enforcement Division attend most meetings to address neighborhood concerns.

The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood identified several projects throughout the planning process which would benefit the neighborhood and which would be appropriate to use the \$15,000 in neighborhood planning grant funds to implement. **The neighborhood decided to spend a majority of their funds on improving the entrance area to the Southeast Boys and Girls Club. The entrance to the Southeast Boys and Girls Club does not include any designated pedestrian access on the public right-of-way, and there is the potential for conflict between groups of children accessing the Club with vehicles and buses. The neighborhood decided to use their funds to provide a sidewalk to the Boys and Girls Club property line on the west side of Southeast 17<sup>th</sup> Drive, provide 10 foot brick-edged crosswalks on S.E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street and S.E. 17<sup>th</sup> Drive and curbing at the intersection to improve pedestrian staging areas. The project is being implemented by the Public Works Department and work began on March 5, 2001. The neighborhood plans to use any additional funds for crime watch signs, neighborhood entrance signs and landscaping.**

### Hibiscus Park Neighborhood:

The Hibiscus Park Neighborhood was not an organized neighborhood group when staff began working with the neighborhood as part of the Neighborhood Planning Program. The neighborhood has since developed strong leadership and has a core group of homeowners who actively participate. The neighborhood worked with city staff to identify neighborhood issues and goals, and identified several major categories which are addressed in their Neighborhood Action Plan (see Exhibit C): **Infrastructure/Traffic; Neighborhood Policing; Codes Enforcement; Neighborhood Appearance/Beautification; and Neighborhood Organization.**

The neighborhood had many concerns related to code enforcement. The Codes Enforcement Division placed a **concentrated effort on enforcing front-yard parking regulations in the neighborhood in an effort to preserve single-family character.** The neighborhood also has concerns about speeding and traffic calming. The neighborhood is on the **Public Works Department waiting list to determine qualification for speed humps.** Poor condition of streets has also been a major concern. **One of the streets in the neighborhood has been placed on the approved Public Works Department Resurfacing List FY 01 / 02. All of the other streets in the neighborhood have been placed on the Public Works Department prioritized nomination list, which pre-approves street resurfacing for the next three years.**

Through the planning process, the neighborhood identified several projects that would improve the appearance of the neighborhood and foster neighborhood character. Discussion on projects centered around **improving a predominantly dry sinkhole located in a prominent location. The neighborhood felt that the sinkhole could serve as an attractive, park-like focal point. The neighborhood decided to hire a landscape architect to develop a plan for the sinkhole and entrance sign features for the neighborhood entrances. The completed landscape plan is provided in Exhibit D. The City Parks Department is currently working with the neighborhood to begin implementing the plan. The neighborhood does not wish to focus solely on the sinkhole, and would like to enhance the neighborhood's character by providing historic street name signs. The Hibiscus Park Neighborhood was platted in 1925 and all of the streets were originally named after flowers.**

#### **Neighborhood Registration Program:**

In previous reports to the City Commission, staff had recommended future possibilities for expansion of the Neighborhood Planning Program. One of those possibilities was to establish a formal, city-wide registration program for neighborhood organizations. One of the benefits of such a registry includes establishing a database of neighborhood organizations and contacts to notify regarding various programs that would impact or benefit neighborhoods. Staff obtained contact information from Gainesville Police Department Crime Watch groups and other sources, and sent out an application for registration to over 70 contacts in May of 2000. As a result, 38 neighborhoods are currently registered with the City. A neighborhood registration list and map is provided as Exhibit E.

#### **Proposed Neighborhoods for Participation:**

In order to determine neighborhood interest in participating in the Neighborhood Planning Program, staff developed an application for participation and mailed it to representatives of all registered neighborhoods. Seven neighborhoods applied: Sugarfoot, Ridgeview, Sugarhill, Black Acres/Black Pines, Kirkwood, Highland Court Manor, and Forest Park. The applications are provided as Exhibit F. A committee of several Community Development Department staff members reviewed the applications and made the recommendation that the **Highland Court Manor and Sugarhill neighborhoods** be the next two neighborhoods to participate in the program. The review criteria was based on several factors, including the issues and concerns stated by the neighborhood's in their application, and whether the Neighborhood Planning Program would be appropriate for addressing those issues.

The **Highland Court Manor neighborhood** is located in northeast Gainesville. The application that was submitted by the neighborhood states that "as the neighborhood has changed with newcomers over the years, we want to reestablish a strong, safe neighborhood for a better quality of life for all of the residents". The application states that some of the projects the neighborhood would like to work on include improving a ditch such that it is more neighborhood friendly and providing neighborhood entrance signs. The neighborhood has recently held clean-ups, and has participated in Paint Your Heart Out Gainesville, National Night Out, and has held a Family Fun Day.

The **Sugarhill Neighborhood** is located in southeast Gainesville. The application that was submitted by the neighborhood states that "we need to improve our neighborhood in so many ways but we do not have the funds. The neighborhood needs a facelift". The application states that some of the projects that the neighborhood would like to work on include improving safety by providing proper street lighting and speed humps, and

improving a neighborhood park. The neighborhood has held clean-ups and has worked with the City on boarding up houses.

### **Neighbor of the Year Program**

Based on a referral from the City Commission, staff has drafted an application for a "Neighbor of the Year Program" (see Exhibit G). The program would recognize an individual each year who has made valuable contributions, through leadership efforts, in improving the quality of life in a Gainesville neighborhood. The individual would be formally recognized by the City Commission and receive a certificate and other tokens of appreciation. The proposed application could be sent to all representatives of registered neighborhoods. It may be appropriate to place an ad in the Gainesville Sun and distribute flyers at city meetings. A committee of city staff would be established to review the applications.



## Exhibit A

### **Neighborhood Planning Program Objectives, Guidelines and Future Goals**

Prepared by the Community Development Department

#### **Objectives:**

Adoption of a neighborhood based planning program, guided by residents and in partnership with a multi-disciplinary team of city representatives, should reap many benefits. The objectives of the neighborhood planning program include building stronger community relationships, defining neighborhood goals and issues, and exploring alternatives for achieving desired neighborhood and city priorities. Additional benefits include tangible physical improvements in the neighborhoods, based on needs identified by both residents and city staff.

Since citizens know best the needs of their neighborhood, an objective of neighborhood based planning is to encourage citizens to take an active role in solving neighborhood problems and for the city to provide assistance and facilitation to ensure successes. An integrated team based approach to working with neighborhoods allows for this type of collaborative effort to take place. Further, this type of neighborhood planning process addresses issues and opportunities at a scale that is responsive to neighborhood needs.

One of the outcomes of neighborhood planning should be the identification of and agreement upon systematic approaches to revitalization that the residents and the city can follow. This is typically considered a neighborhood action plan. Neighborhood action plans should be strategic and action oriented, and should focus on, but not be limited to, physical improvements and programs that have the potential to be funded and implemented. It is difficult to sustain residential involvement without evidence that the involvement will result in change, therefore quick successes should be created. Although emphasis on physical improvements will not necessarily address human welfare and social issues that some neighborhoods face, such improvements can increase neighborhood pride, provide needed infrastructure and public safety upgrades, as well as raise awareness and stimulate action such as the creation of outside agency partnerships with the neighborhood to accomplish goals.

#### **Program development:**

Staff reviewed neighborhood planning programs established by various cities in order to develop a neighborhood planning program specific to Gainesville and within the scope of current staff availability and resources. The programs of other cities range from small programs which work with one neighborhood per year and have limited funding allocations, such as in Nashville, Tennessee, to cities which have created departments devoted entirely to neighborhood planning and allocate a great deal of funding and staff, such as St. Petersburg, Florida and Seattle, Washington. Other programs are oriented towards providing neighborhood services and administering matching grants programs (e.g. Jacksonville, Florida).

Two neighborhoods were designated for participation in the FY98-99 Pilot Program. Those neighborhoods were chosen from among the 10 Target Area Revitalization Program (TARP) areas designated by the Community Development Block Grant Division and approved by the City Commission in 1994. Participating neighborhoods need not be located in TARP areas but should be located primarily in central, eastside, or other older neighborhoods. Because neighborhood interest and participation is very important to the

success of a truly collaborative neighborhood planning effort, those neighborhoods with avid citizen interest should be given higher priority than a similar neighborhood with a lower level of citizen interest.

Once the planning process has been initiated, city staff will work with each neighborhood to produce an action plan. The plan may be elaborate or simple based on the needs of the neighborhood and the willingness of stakeholders to commit the time and effort necessary to complete the tasks. The outcome of the Neighborhood Action Plan will include a prioritized list of projects for development within the city right-of-way or on city owned property. Some of these projects will be recommended for funding with proposed Neighborhood Planning Grant funds.

Interdepartmental Neighborhood Action Teams will be assigned to each designated neighborhood at the initiation of the planning process. The purpose of the interdepartmental teams is to provide a coordinated approach and establish planning, revitalization and public service priorities tailored to neighborhood needs. The Neighborhood Action Teams will assist neighborhoods with developing an action plan and members will generally serve as their departmental liaison to the designated neighborhood.

**Guidelines:**

**1. Designate a minimum of one neighborhood for participation in the Neighborhood Planning program per year.**

- A. Neighborhood boundaries should be determined by the participating neighborhood.
- B. A neighborhood planning process shall be initiated and Neighborhood Action Plan produced with neighborhood input for each designated neighborhood.
- C. Neighborhood meetings should be held within the defined neighborhood boundaries.
- D. City services for implementation of the Neighborhood Planning Program may include, but not be limited to: organizing and facilitating neighborhood meetings, mailing of meeting notices and flyers, taking and preparing meeting minutes, arranging for speakers, neighborhood project coordination, prioritized access to existing city programs, city staff availability to attend neighborhood meetings and drafting of the neighborhood action plan.
- E. Specific projects to be funded with Neighborhood Planning Grant Funds ( if allocated by the City Commission) shall be determined by staff, based on the priorities identified by neighborhood residents. Periodic reports to the City Commission will be provided.
- F. Projects eligible for funding with Neighborhood Planning Grant Funds must represent a capital improvement to be constructed within the city right-of-way or on city owned property (or on private property with an appropriate easement if approved by the City Commission), and must result in a product that benefits the neighborhood. Types of projects shall include but are not limited to: traffic calming measures; pedestrian crossing improvements; street lighting or pedestrian oriented lighting; landscaping, entry features and median improvements; park and recreation enhancements; curb, gutter and sidewalk

improvements; bike trails; bus shelters; and community gardens. Due to the limited amount of Neighborhood Planning Grant funds, major projects such as street resurfacing and drainage improvements should be recommended for inclusion as future city budget items.

G. The Neighborhood Action Plan shall be provided to the City Commission upon completion for each neighborhood.

**2. A Neighborhood Action Team (NAT), comprising city staff, shall be established for each designated neighborhood at the initiation of the planning process.**

A. Each team will consist of one team coordinator and up to 8 team members. Every department/division listed below should assign a staff person to each Neighborhood Action Team. Staff may serve on more than one team.

1. Each Team will include representation from the following departments/divisions

Planning  
Housing  
Block Grant  
Codes Enforcement  
Parks and Recreation  
Public Works  
Police  
RTS

2. The Team Coordinator's (see note below) responsibilities shall include:

- \* Notify appropriate team members to attend neighborhood meetings to work on specific issues.
- \* Relay neighborhood concerns to team members and follow up on departmental response and project implementation

\* Note: The representative from the Planning Division shall be the Team Coordinator

3. The Team Member's responsibilities shall include:

- \* Assist with the development of Neighborhood Action Plans.
- \* Availability to attend neighborhood meetings as needed.
- \* Assist citizens in developing and prioritizing projects and action strategies.
- \* Troubleshoot problem areas in neighborhoods, and coordinate city responses.
- \* Identify departmental funding sources/ existing programs and oversee project implementation.

**3. By May 31st of each year, draft a preliminary evaluation of the Neighborhood Planning Program specific to each participating neighborhood, propose designated neighborhoods for the following fiscal year, request Neighborhood Grant Funding for the following year's designated neighborhood(s), and propose potential expansions of the neighborhood planning program.**

**4. At the completion of the Neighborhood Planning Program, the Team Coordinator from the City's Planning Division shall continue to serve as a liaison to each participating neighborhood, and shall coordinate continued Neighborhood Action Team involvement as needed.**

### **Future Possibilities and Goals for the Neighborhood Planning Program**

The scope of the above program is realistically limited due to staffing and available resources, and should be reviewed at the end of each fiscal year to determine its success. The city, however, has a great deal of future potential to expand the neighborhood planning program and utilize some of the very successful concepts that are working for neighborhoods in other cities. Some of the possible concepts are listed below.

1. Establish a Neighborhood Association Registration Program.
  - A. Presidents of associations or a designated neighborhood representative for a registered neighborhood would receive notice of development activity within a specified distance of their neighborhood boundaries as well as other meeting notices and information on neighborhood planning.
  - B. Registered neighborhoods would be eligible to participate in any potential expansions of the neighborhood planning program.
2. After a certain number of neighborhoods have registered with the city, create a citywide neighborhood committee with one representative from each neighborhood.
3. The mayor could hold a town meeting in each quadrant of the city with a panel of staff from each department to answer questions. The City of Petersburg, VA has an innovative program called "The Neighborhood Walk Program- Taking City Hall to the Streets". Twice a year, city staff, including department heads and the city manager as well as commission members, walk through residential and business neighborhoods one afternoon a week to "meet and greet". The locations of the walk are well publicized, and neighborhood associations and business associations are contacted in advance and invited to join. During the walks, participants knock on doors and speak to citizens about their areas, issues or problems, and acquire feedback first hand about city services and policies. Problems are noted and brought back to the appropriate department, and residents are encouraged to maintain properties and support clean up projects. The program allows a one-on-one type of relationship and removes some of the impediments that may prevent people from going to or calling city hall.
4. Provide neighborhood leadership training to residents. The Citizen Leadership Training Program at Santa Fe Community College has expressed a willingness to provide leadership training to residents of designated neighborhoods and to assist in the facilitation of neighborhood meetings to identify common issues.
5. Establish a competitive citywide Neighborhood Matching Grants Program similar to Jacksonville's. Such a program could allow neighborhood associations to submit grant



applications to accomplish neighborhood improvements for a maximum of \$5000 with a match and volunteer time required.

6. Produce a periodic neighborhoods newsletter with information on neighborhood planning efforts and programs in the city.

7. Hold a City Departments Exposition where departments set up booths which explain what they do and what services they offer and are staffed to answer questions from the public.

8. Create videos explaining the roles, function and specialized expertise of the city departments for view by neighborhood groups.



EXHIBIT B

**LINCOLN ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD  
ACTION PLAN**



**Prepared by Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Residents and the  
City of Gainesville Department of Community Development**

**March 2001**

Marie Carter  
Iona Velasques  
Geneva Watson  
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Andrew Mickle Sr.  
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Rev. Cathy Long  
Jewel Wicks  
Mr. & Mrs. Elvis Williams  
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Rebecca Starling  
William Glasper Jr.  
Ericka Jackson  
Albert Daniels  
Bernice Usher  
Elease Bradley  
Francis Kennedy  
Catherine Mickle  
Karen Edwards  
Rosa Young  
Larry Jenkins  
Barbara J. Woods  
Minnie Webb

Lenora Jenkins  
Andrew Jackson  
Patsy Leggett  
Vivian Pressley  
Roberta Baker  
Luvenia Reese  
Mayola Williams  
Elois Williams  
Betty Sanford  
Preston Lux  
Rev. Samuel Jones Jr.  
Wanda Thomas  
Vivian Filer  
Marcus Brinson  
Kenneth M. Hill  
Louiza Griffin  
Margaret Tate  
Ella S. Daniels  
Frances Alford  
James Stokes



**Lincoln Estates  
Neighborhood Action Team**

Neighborhood Planning

Kathy Winburn, Senior Planner  
Thomas Center Building B, 2nd floor  
302 N.E. 6th Avenue  
334-5022

Public Works/Traffic Engineering

Stewart Pearson, City Engineer  
Thomas Center Building B, 3rd floor  
302 N.E. 6th Avenue  
334-5072

Codes Enforcement

Walter Booth, Codes Enforcement Officer  
Thomas Center Building B, 1st floor  
334-5030

Parks and Recreation

Patrick Byrne, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Meg Niederhofer, City Arborist  
405 N.W. 39th Avenue  
334-2171

Gainesville Police Department

Captain Tony Jones  
721 N.W. 6th Street  
334-2400

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Jim Hencin, CDBG Manager  
Thomas Center Building B, 2nd floor  
334-5031

Solid Waste

Steve Hiney, Solid Waste Manager  
Gina Hawkins, Recycling Coordinator  
Old Library Building, 2nd floor  
334-5040



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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Gainesville Neighborhood Planning Program is a collaborative process between the City and the residents that live and work in neighborhoods. The program helps to build stronger community relationships, improve communication between the neighborhood and the City, define neighborhood goals and issues, and explore alternatives for achieving desired neighborhood and City priorities. The Neighborhood Planning Program provides a forum for residents to initiate rather than to react to change, and in which neighborhood residents can work out mutually acceptable alternatives and solutions to area problems and define future goals. Further, the neighborhood planning process addresses issues and opportunities at a scale which is more refined and responsive to neighborhood needs. The program includes the designation of city staff from various departments to serve as a Neighborhood Action Team, assisting designated neighborhoods to meet goals, address needs, and implement projects. The end product of the neighborhood planning program is the development of a Neighborhood Action Plan, which identifies neighborhood issues and projects, and should serve as a guide for future enhancement of the neighborhood, and for directing and managing change.

The 2000 Neighborhood Planning Program included the designation of two neighborhoods for participation. The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood was designated by the City Commission for participation. The City Commission allocated \$15,000 in neighborhood planning grant dollars to each participating neighborhood to implement the program and for physical improvement projects located in the city right-of-way or on city owned property. The funding for small projects has been made a part of the program based on the belief that people working together to provide tangible improvements in a neighborhood helps to instill a sense of neighborhood pride, thereby building stronger communities. The projects chosen by the neighborhood should help to create a common identity or sense of community in the neighborhood.

Neighborhood participation is the cornerstone of the Neighborhood Planning Program, and the Neighborhood Action Plan is completely neighborhood driven. The plan is divided into issue areas and contains the goals and strategies as recommended by the neighborhood through a series of neighborhood meetings, beginning in October of 1999. Brief summaries of the meeting are provided in Section III, and more detailed summaries are provided in Appendix A.

**The main purpose of this plan is to provide the neighborhood with a working document to continue to work on long and short-term goals beyond the city sponsored neighborhood planning process, thereby contributing to the quality of Gainesville's neighborhoods and neighborhood organization network.**

## **PART II**

### **OVERVIEW OF THE LINCOLN ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD**

The boundaries of the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood, as determined by the neighborhood, are provided in Figure 1. There are 653 homes in Lincoln Estates, which is bordered by S.E. 15th Street to the west, S.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the north, S.E. 20<sup>th</sup> Street to the east, and S.E. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the south. The neighborhood is included in an area which has been designated by the City Commission as a Target Area Revitalization Program (TARP) Area. The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood is located in Census Tract 7. 1990 Census data for tract 7 indicates that the median household income was \$14,008; 43% of residents had income below poverty level, and 34% of residents older than 65 had an income below poverty level. 76% percent of housing units in Census Tract 7 are at least 30 years old, according to the 1990 Census.

The assets of the neighborhood include the many residents who are active in their community and wish to improve the quality of life in the Lincoln Estates neighborhood. Residents indicated that the assets of the neighborhood include: good neighbors, proper street layout, youth facilities, lots of youth, good sidewalks, wide streets, affordable homes, new home construction (NHDC), schools, the T.B. McPherson Center, close proximity to the Gainesville/Hawthorne Rail Trail, the Southeast Boys Club and nice trees and shrubs.

The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Committee is well organized and has been in existence for several years under the leadership of Mrs. Doris Edwards. The neighborhood produces a newsletter quarterly to keep residents informed of progress in the neighborhood, meets monthly, and has organized to specifically address many issues in the neighborhood. In 1998 and 1999, the neighborhood worked with the City to obtain speed humps and traffic calming where needed and provided their input on the development of a city owned retention pond in the neighborhood, which has since been developed in a manner which meets many of the neighborhood's requests related to safety and appearance.

# Lincoln Estates

Neighborhood Boundary

Lincoln Estates  
Neighborhood Boundary

FY 99-00 City of Gainesville  
Neighborhood Planning Program  
**City of Gainesville**  
Gainesville, Florida  
Prepared by the  
Department of Community Development  
November 1999



Figure 1



### **PART III CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Because the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood is organized and met monthly prior to participation in the Neighborhood Planning Program, city staff attended the monthly meetings beginning in October 1999, and the neighborhood planning process took place as part of each meetings monthly agenda. Between 20 and 30 residents participated at each meeting.

#### Meeting Summaries

\* more detailed meeting summaries are provided in Appendix A.

At the October 12, 1999 Lincoln Estates Neighborhood meeting, city staff made a presentation to residents explaining the Neighborhood Planning Program. Residents indicated their interest and provided staff with the neighborhood determined boundaries of the neighborhood so that maps could be produced. A representative of the Gainesville Police Department also attended the meeting to hear neighborhood concerns, and a representative of the Public Works Department provided an update of a stormwater project in the neighborhood.

At the November 17, 1999 Lincoln Estates Neighborhood meeting, city staff conducted a workshop session with the neighborhood to begin identifying neighborhood issues. Residents began the session on a positive note by identifying the assets of the neighborhood. Residents then moved on to identifying the needs of the neighborhood and potential neighborhood enhancements. The results of the meeting are provided in Appendix B. Also at the meeting, a presentation was made by a City Commission candidate; representatives of the Keystone Club, a youth service group; and a representative of the City's Parks and Recreation Department indicated that neighborhood support and participation was needed to apply for a grant to replace playground equipment at the T.B. McPherson Center.

At the January 12, 2000 Lincoln Estates Neighborhood meeting residents heard presentations by District 1 City Commission candidates, Captain Tony Jones of the Gainesville Police Department, and Walter Booth, City Codes Enforcement Officer. Residents discussed the four major categories to be focused on within the neighborhood action plan, based on issues identified at the previous meeting.

At the February 23, 2000 Lincoln Estates Neighborhood meeting, residents discussed code enforcement issues, and then broke up into two groups to discuss goals and strategies related to traffic and infrastructure and neighborhood security.

At the April 12, 2000 neighborhood meeting, residents established goals and strategies for topics related to landscaping/beautification and human services/recreation. Potential neighborhood projects to fund with City Commission neighborhood improvement grant



dollars were discussed. Code enforcement and crime issues were also discussed, with police and code enforcement officers in attendance.

On May 24, 2000, several Lincoln Estates residents and staff from the City's Planning and Public Works Departments met at the entrance to the Southeast Boys Club to discuss possibilities for improving pedestrian and traffic circulation and minimizing conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians at a very busy intersection.

On June 10, 2000, the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood held a successful Neighborhood Clean-up with sixty volunteers and lunch provided by the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood.

On July 12, 2000, the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood hosted a Comprehensive Planning Workshop and dinner at the T.B. McPherson Center. The workshop included discussion of housing and transportation policies that were proposed for inclusion in the City's Comprehensive Plan. City planning staff presented the issues, with much valuable input provided by Lincoln Estates residents.

On August 1, 2000, the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood participated in National Night Out, America's Night Out Against Crime.

On October 25, 2000, the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood, potential projects and cost estimates for improvements near the Southeast Boys Club were discussed. Mr. Stu Pearson and Mr. Seabie Lloyd of the City's Public Works Department discussed stormwater and maintenance issues. An update was provided by the City's Code enforcement Department, and officers from GPD's South District Team heard concerns of residents.

On November 15, 2000, neighborhood subcommittees met to develop recommendations on neighborhood projects to be presented to the neighborhood at the next regular meeting.

On January 31, 2001, the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood met and made a final decision on the funding of neighborhood projects with the funds allocated by the City Commission through the Neighborhood Planning Program.

## **PART IV**

### **ISSUES, IDEAS AND GOALS**

The purpose of this plan is to outline approaches for addressing neighborhood improvement priorities identified by neighborhood residents. These priorities generally fit into the following categories:

- \* Infrastructure/Traffic
- \* Neighborhood Security
- \* Neighborhood Appearance and Beautification
- \* Human Services/Recreation

Strategies for addressing these priorities, which were developed by the neighborhood residents, are the basis of this plan. This document presents initiatives for action determined by the neighborhood residents, many of which can be accomplished by partnerships within the neighborhood and with the assistance of the city and outside agencies.

#### **Infrastructure and Traffic**

The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood has worked in cooperation with the City to address speeding and traffic issues and stormwater infrastructure issues. One project which has had a major impact on the neighborhood in the past year is the 1,300 foot extension of S.E. 8th Avenue on the north side of the neighborhood connecting to Hawthorne Road. To accommodate the extension, the City has consequently built approximately 3 acres of retention ponds located on 10 city-owned acres adjacent to the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood on the east side. When construction on the project began in March of 1999, the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood approached the City, concerned with safety and aesthetic issues. Residents did a ride-along with representatives of the Public Works Department to view retention ponds around the city. As a result, the retention pond project was constructed to include green vinyl coated chain link fencing around the wet pond and along the property line of adjacent residents, an aerator pump was provided in the wet pond to keep water from becoming stagnant, and mosquito control and landscaping were also included. The neighborhood would like to see additional improvement for the stormwater retention area, and those are included within the goals outlined in this plan.

The neighborhood has also worked with the Public Works Department to install speed humps in the area. Speed humps have been installed on S.E. 12th Avenue and are scheduled for installment on other streets in Lincoln Estates for the early part of 2000.

Goals and strategies related to infrastructure and traffic, as identified by the neighborhood, are included below:

**GOAL: Reduce the speed of cars in the neighborhood by:**

1. traffic calming on S.E. 15th Street between 4th Avenue and 1st (County road)

**GOAL: Provide useful sidewalks, pedestrian accessibility, multi-modal access and safety for children throughout the neighborhood:**

1. Provide a cross walk near the Boys Club at S.E. 12th and S.E. 18th
2. Provide sidewalks throughout the neighborhood
3. Locate bus shelters at appropriate locations.

Note: The 1990 Census indicates that approximately 1/3 of housing units in Census Tract 7 do not own vehicles.

**GOAL: Obtain a well lit neighborhood by improving lighting in the following locations:**

1. S.E. 14th Avenue (only has two street lights)
2. S.E. 17th Drive (lights too dim)
3. S.E. 18th Terrace (light too dim)
4. S.E. 13th Place from S.E. 15th to S.E. 17th
5. S.E. 17th Terrace
6. S.E. 15th Avenue
7. S.E. 15th Street

**GOAL: Improve the overall drainage system and problem ditches in the neighborhood:**

1. problem ditch at S.E. 17th Drive and S.E. 17th Terrace
2. problem ditch at S.E. 8th Ave. and S.E. 15th Street (Church of God by Faith)

Note: The City has allocated block grant funding to remedy problems with a ditch in the neighborhood by rerouting stormwater through a pipe. A meeting with the St. John's Water Management District will occur to discuss the proposal.

**GOAL: Improve pedestrian access to the Southeast Boys Club**

1. Provide crosswalk improvements in the vicinity of S.E. 12th Avenue and S.E.
2. Work with the Public Works Department and GPD on improvements near the entrance to the Boy's Club which would provide better accessibility and discourage loitering.

Note: Crosswalk and other infrastructure improvements near the entrance to the Southeast Boys Club are potential projects for funding with neighborhood planning grant dollars.

**Neighborhood Beautification**

The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood has opportunities for beautification enhancements which would improve neighborhood identity and instill neighborhood pride. The main entrances to the neighborhood are accessed from S.E. 15th Avenue, along the western boundary of the neighborhood. The southern most entrance to the neighborhood includes a median that would be appropriate for neighborhood entry feature enhancements such as landscaping or a neighborhood identification sign. Residents are also concerned with code enforcement violations which impact the appearance of the neighborhood, such as junk, trash and debris and inoperable vehicles parked in yards or on the street.

**GOAL: Improve the appearance of the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood through landscape beautification efforts**

1. Provide landscape improvements at prominent locations in the neighborhood:
  - A. Median island on S.E. 15th Avenue near S.E. 15th Street
  - B. Northeast corner of S.E. 12th Avenue and S.E. 15th Street
  - C. Plant flowering trees along S.E. 15th Street

2. Provide a neighborhood identification sign with landscaping at one of the locations described above.

Note: Landscaping improvements in the public right of way are potential projects for funding with neighborhood planning grant dollars. Since S.E. 15th Street is a county road, any landscaping improvements would require Alachua County Public Works Department approval.

**GOAL: Maintain a neighborhood free of trash and litter**

1. Hold regular neighborhood clean-ups in association with Keep Alachua County Beautiful

Note: The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood held a neighborhood clean-up on June 10, 2000.

**GOAL: Provide more Codes Enforcement in the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood**

1. Prevent inoperable vehicles from being parked in yards and on the street.
2. Eliminate the storage of junk and trash which is visible to the street.
3. Remove stray animals  
Contact County Animal Control at 955-2333 to report specific problems.

Note: The City Code Enforcement Division performed a sweep of the neighborhood during March and April, 2000 to identify code violations. Sixty-five (65) notices of violations were issued, and 12 had come into compliance as of the April 12th neighborhood meeting. Most of the violations were related to abandoned and inoperable vehicles, and junk, trash and debris. A couple of violations were also resolved related to auto repair businesses being conducted from single-family homes. A City Code Enforcement officer attends Lincoln Estates neighborhood meetings on a regular basis to report on code issues and obtain information from residents regarding potential code violations.



## Neighborhood Security

At the February 23, 2000 Lincoln Estates meeting, Captain Tony Jones with the Gainesville Police Department conducted a workshop session with a group of Lincoln Estates residents to determine overall goals related to neighborhood security. Residents indicated that their biggest concern was drugs being sold on street corners. Crime statistics for 1999 were provided to the neighborhood by Captain Jones, and are provided in Exhibit A.

### **Goal: Eliminate loitering at street corners and the selling of drugs**

1. Increase patrols and provide stricter enforcement by G.P.D.
2. Remove an RTS bench at S.E. 12th Avenue and S.E. 19th Terrace

### **Goal: Reduce the amount of crime in the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood**

1. Install new Neighborhood Crime Watch Signs which say "Report Suspicious Activity".

Note: The City will install two Crime Watch Signs per neighborhood. Additional signs can be purchased by the neighborhood at \$25.87 each. Neighborhood planning grant funds can be used for this purpose. If the neighborhood decides to spend funds for this project, a subcommittee should be established first to determine sign locations.

2. Provide increased patrols after school where kids congregate and fight:
  - A. Carver Gardens and S.E. 15th Street
  - B. S.E. 17th Terrace and S.E. 12th Avenue.

3. Trim tree limbs so that lights are visible

Need exact locations to report to Parks Department (or GRU)?

4. Establish Citizens on Patrol with cell phones

Note: This program is currently being developed by GPD.

5. Participate in Operation Care

Note: This program is currently being developed by GPD.

6. Work with the Alachua County School Board and other agencies to provide parental education programs
7. Hold block parties

Note: The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood plans to hold a block party in 2001.

**Goal: Increase the police presence in the area through positive programs.**

1. Establish a sub-station on S.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue near the retention basin in order to locate police officers within minutes of Lincoln Middle School, Williams Elementary, the T.B. McPherson Center, Lincoln Estates, Carver Gardens, Kennedy Homes, Woodlawn Park and other areas with crime problems, as well as enhance partnerships with the sheriff's office, EMS, the new Health Department and Incubator tenants.

2. Establish a relationship with officers assigned to the neighborhood via the District Policing Program.

### **Recreation/Human Services**

The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood has several nearby recreational facilities: the T.B. McPherson Center, Southeast Boys Club and Boulware Springs/Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail. The T.B. McPherson Center provides many recreational activities for children, has a swimming program, and recently received a grant to improve playground equipment. The Southeast Boys Club, located in the heart of the neighborhood, has many popular programs for children and is in the process of building a Teen Center. The S.E. 8th Avenue stormwater basin property, located in the eastern portion of the neighborhood, also has potential opportunities for providing recreational amenities for the neighborhood. Residents have indicated a need for more senior services provided in the neighborhood.

**GOAL: Increase the use of the T.B. McPherson Center**

**GOAL: Provide services to seniors in the neighborhood and those with special needs**

**GOAL: Improve the 10 acre S.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue stormwater area with park like amenities for walking, exercising, relaxing and on-site nature and health services.**

1. Landscape the entire 10 acres including the ponds and construct a walking trail with possible exercise stations
2. Provide a lighting system
3. Provide twice monthly maintenance
4. Provide a bridge across the existing ditch to give trail/park access to future neighbors
5. Construct a pavilion and drinking water fountains

Note: Recommendations from the neighborhood also included the following, which have been accomplished: fencing of the wet pond with a green chain link fence, provision of a aerator pump to keep water from becoming stagnant, provision of a fence along the back property line of homes on the east side of S.E. 20<sup>th</sup> Street, some landscaping of the ponds, and mosquito and pest control.

## PART V POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

The City of Gainesville Neighborhood Planning Program allocates \$15,000 for the implementation of neighborhood projects. Specific projects are determined by city staff and the neighborhood, based on priorities determined by the residents. Projects eligible for funding with neighborhood planning grant funds must represent a capital improvement to be constructed within the city right-of-way or on city-owned property (or on private property with an appropriate easement- may require approval by the City Commission), and must result in a product that benefits the neighborhood. Types of projects can include, but are not limited to: traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossing improvements, landscaping, entry features and median improvements, bike trails, bus shelters and community gardens.

The Lincoln Estates Neighborhood residents have identified the following projects for implementation with City Commission allocated neighborhood planning funds:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Approximate cost</u>
1. Provide a sidewalk on the west side of S.E. 17 <sup>th</sup> Street from S.E. 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Boys Club.	\$ 840.00
2. Provide concrete crosswalks with brick pattern edging (440 sq.ft.) connecting the NW corner and SW corner across S.E. 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue and connecting the SW corner and SE corner across S.E. 17 <sup>th</sup> Street (pavement width 22 feet).	\$ 3,000.00
3. Reconstruct corners at S.E. 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue and S.E. 17 <sup>th</sup> Street with type "D" curbing, new curb ramps and modified turn radii to increase pedestrian staging areas. To be constructed on all four corners (approx. 400 feet of new curb).	\$ 6,000.00
4. Crime Watch signs (approximately 40 at \$27.50 each)	\$1,100.00
5. Neighborhood Entrance sign at S.E. 15 <sup>th</sup> Avenue and S.E. 15 <sup>th</sup> Street	to be determined

### No cost projects:

6. Four way stop at S.E. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S.E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street
7. No parking signs along both sides of S.E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street from S.E. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Boys Club.

**PLEASE INDICATE THE TWO PROJECTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GRANT FUNDS SPENT ON, WITH "1" BEING THE PROJECT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE OCCUR MOST.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **IMPROVEMENTS AT S.E. BOYS CLUB ENTRANCE** (if you choose this project, please prioritize the top 3 projects on the attached sheet).

\_\_\_\_\_ **BUS SHELTERS** (approx. \$3,000 each). Please indicate preferred location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRY WAY IMPROVEMENTS**

\_\_\_\_\_ **LANDSCAPING AT PROMEINENT LOCATIONS** (median island at S.E. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. and S.E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street; NE corner of S.E. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. and S.E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street; plant flowering trees along N.E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street).

\_\_\_\_\_ **NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFICATION SIGN WITH LANDSCAPING** (approx. \$2,500).

\_\_\_\_\_ **CRIME WATCH SIGNS** (2 for free/\$ 27.50 for each additional)

# **APPENDIX A**

## **MEETING SUMMARIES**

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**Meeting Summary**  
**Lincoln Estates Neighborhood**  
**October 12, 1999**  
**T.B. McPherson Center**

*Prepared by the City of Gainesville Department of Community Development*

Captain Tony Jones of the Gainesville Police Department indicated that he has taken over G.P.D.'s Community Oriented Policing program (COPS) and was now analyzing the community and will then come back to talk about partnership. He asked residents to indicate any concerns. Some of the concerns included: a cross walk person needed at S.E. 7th Avenue and S.E. 15th Street; a street light needed at S.E. 19th Terrace and S.E. 8th Avenue; drivers weaving along S.E. 15th Avenue; the Gainesville Sun showing only African-Americans being arrested in recent stories; people hanging out in cars at the dead end at S.E. 15th Avenue and S.E. 20th Street; and too many calls that are being made unnecessarily to 911.

Mr. Stewart Pearson of the City of Gainesville Public Works Department discussed the construction of the stormwater basin for the S.E. 8th Avenue extension. He indicated that trees were being planted. Residents expressed concerns over a new fence proposed along the back property lines adjacent to the basin, and who the fence would belong to, the resident or the city. Residents indicated that some people prefer their own fence and that individual posts should be placed at each property corner.

It was mentioned that the ribbon cutting for the 8th Avenue extension will be on November 1st. Mrs. Edwards indicated that she had proposed to the City Manager that the 8th Avenue extension be called "Jennings Avenue" because of Commissioner Ed Jenning Sr.'s diligence in pushing the road through.

Residents expressed concerns that 8th Avenue from 15th Street to Hawthorne Road would become a raceway. Capt. Jones indicated that he would work on traffic calming with Brian Kanely from City Traffic Engineering.

Residents indicated that there was a blind spot at S.E. 20th Street and S.E. 8th Avenue, and a three-way stop or round-a-bout was suggested in this area.

Concerns were also voiced regarding a large ditch that runs along S.E. 12th Avenue. Mr. Pearson indicated that this ditch is in the running for funding to pipe it and cover it so that it will become terraced instead of a ditch. He indicated that the Public Works Department was looking for partners to mow areas directly adjacent to private property. Residents also expressed concerns about snakes in the ditch areas and about the increase in mosquitoes.



Page 2

Lincoln Estates meeting summary

October 12, 1999

Mr. Ross of the T.B. McPherson Center discussed the programs at the center. It was suggested that an information sheet should be developed of the programs offered, since many people do not seem to know about them.

Kim Gable of GRU discussed the potential for a community garden near Kennedy Homes at S.E. 15th Street and S.E. 17th Street on S.E. 4th Avenue. Residents indicated an interest and it was decided to move forward with the process.

Mrs. Doris Edwards discussed the Depot Avenue project and indicated that she hoped that someone from Lincoln Estates would join the committee.

Kathy Winburn of the City Planning Department discussed the City's Neighborhood Planning program and indicated that the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood was chosen for participation. She stated that the program involved a process for the neighborhood to develop a Neighborhood Action Plan, as well as \$15,000 in funding that has been allocated by the City Commission for projects on city property or city right-of-way. She described the purpose and goals of the program, which include a Neighborhood Action Team of city representatives from at least seven city departments to assist the neighborhood in the process. She indicated that for the next meeting, the city representatives would attend to describe city programs and services and to answer questions, and the neighborhood would begin identifying goals. The residents indicated that boundaries of the Lincoln Estates neighborhood for the purposes of the program, Ms. Winburn indicated that she would have maps made.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on November 9th at 5:30 pm at the T.B. McPherson Center.

## Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Meeting

November 17, 1999

### Meeting Summary

*Prepared by the City of Gainesville Department of Community Development*

Mrs. Doris Edwards began the meeting by introducing the City's new police chief, Chief Botsford, and by recognizing outgoing interim police Chief Daryl Johnston for his service. Mr. Scherwin Henry, a candidate for the City Commission, spoke about his opinion on issues related to East Gainesville and his interest in running for a City Commission seat. Outgoing Commissioner Edward Jennings spoke on his experiences as a city commissioner. Representatives of the Keystone Club, a youth service group, also made a presentation on their organization. Mr. Clarence Mills of the City's Parks and Recreation Department discussed a \$50,000 grant to replace playground equipment at the T.B. McPherson Center and indicated that community participation and support was needed in order to obtain the grant. Ms. Edwards, of the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood, indicated that she planned to establish champions for each street in the neighborhood, which would be similar to what has often been referred to as block captains.

Over 30 residents then actively participated in a workshop session, conducted by city planning staff, while enjoying a potluck Thanksgiving dinner. Ms. Kathy Winburn, city planner, described the city's Neighborhood Planning program and indicated that this would be the first of several sessions in the process of developing a neighborhood action plan and identifying neighborhood projects. Maps of the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood and surveys were provided to residents. Residents began the session on a positive note by identifying the positive aspects of the Lincoln Estates neighborhood. Ms. Winburn indicated that it was important for the neighborhood to recognize the positive in order to work towards preserving those qualities and possibly enhancing them to realize goals. Many assets of the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood were identified (see attached). Residents then moved on to identifying the needs of the neighborhood and potential enhancements (see attached). Ms. Winburn indicated that the list developed at the meeting would be broken down into several broad categories, and at the next session, residents would work in small groups to develop goals, and then form subgroups to work on strategies to meet the goals. She also indicated that members of several city departments (the Neighborhood Action team assigned to Lincoln Estates), would be invited to the next meeting. She suggested that the neighborhood conduct a "Walk-Through", to further identify neighborhood issues and needs. Ms. Edwards indicated that the neighborhood may conduct a walk through in January, and invite city and community leaders to participate. She stated that the next neighborhood newsletter may include the list of assets and enhancement indicated tonight as well as the neighborhood survey for residents to fill out.

It was decided that the next neighborhood meeting would be held on January 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the T.B. McPherson Center.

**LINCOLN ESTATES**

**NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS**

GOOD PEOPLE

GOOD NEIGHBORS

LOTS OF ACTION

PROPER STREET LAYOUT

YOUTH FACILITIES

LOTS OF YOUTH

GOOD SIDEWALKS

WIDE STREETS

AFFORDABLE HOMES

NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION (NHDC)

SCHOOLS

RECREATION- T.B. MCPHERSON CENTER

BIKEWAY

BOYS CLUB

TREES AND SHRUBBERY

**LINCOLN ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENTS/ISSUES**

**CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGNS NEEDED**

- S.E. 12th Place and 20th
- S.E. 17th Drive

**MOSQUITO CONTROL**

**CODES ENFORCEMENT**

- junk cars

**CLEAN-UP VACANT LOTS**

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

**PARKING ON STREETS**

**NOISE**

**LANDSCAPING**

- median on S.E. 15th Street with flowering trees
- S.E. 12th Avenue and 15th Street- gateway to area

**SIDEWALKS**

- on one side of:  
S.E. 12th Place  
S.E. 13th Places  
S.E. 14th Avenue  
within entire neighborhood where lacking

**NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFICATION**

**TRAFFIC CALMING**

- S.E. 20th Street and 8th Ave. (planned)

**SHOPPING CARTS AND BOTTLES LEFT IN NEIGHBORHOOD**

**BEAUTIFICATION OF BUS STOPS**

**BUS SHELTERS**

**HAVE TO CROSS DITCH BETWEEN S.E. 14th Ave. and S.E. 15th Ave. TO GET TO BUS STOP**

LINCOLN ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD  
ENHANCEMENTS  
(continued)

MORE LIGHTING

-8th Avenue (older part)

TRIM TREES

-S.E. 15th Street and S.E. 12th Ave.

(City has trimmed bottom but not top, and trees are blocking street lights)

MORE CROSS WALKS

-across from Boys Club

-8th Ave. near Kennedy Homes

-like the one on UF Campus near UF Police Dept. and 13th Street with small lights on the borders

STREET CURBING

LOWER SPEED HUMPS ON S.E. 12th Ave. (3 of them are too high)

SENIOR SERVICES

- many seniors living alone need lawns cut, trash put out, etc.

-Social Service coordinator needed

-Keystone Club could possibly assist with goals related to this category

NEED SAFE PLACES FOR CHILDREN

LOUD MUSIC

TOT LOT NEEDED

## Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Meeting

January 12, 2000

T.B. McPherson Center, 5:30 p.m.

### Meeting Summary

*Prepared by the City of Gainesville Department of Community Development*

Mrs. Doris Edwards began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the new century. She indicated that if anyone knew of young people looking for a job, that a program called YouthBuild could possibly offer assistance, and could be reached at 334-4000.

Mrs. Edwards indicated that three District 1 candidates for City Commission had been invited to the meeting to give a brief presentation on what they would do for the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood. Mr. Charles Chestnut IV and Mr. Davin "Flip" Woody were in attendance. Mr. Scherwin Henry was unable to attend. She indicated that the election will be on March 14, 2000. Mr. Charles Chestnut IV indicated that his platform was to build a better working community. He stated that some of the issues he was most concerned about were more codes enforcement, economic development, affordable housing, neighborhood clean-ups and neighborhood identification signs. Mr. Davin "Flip" Woody indicated that his platform was partnership with the community. He stated that some of the issues he was most concerned about were community involvement with the police department and codes enforcement; citizen on patrol with each street designating a leader; partnerships with the Alachua County School Board to open up computer labs to parents and grandparents; and crime protection/reinstating the COPS program.

Mrs. Edwards indicated that there were 33,000 people in District 1, and that residents need to go to the polls in numbers. The Outreach Coordinator for the Supervisor of Elections Office then provided a demonstration of the new voting system, which involves a scanning system as opposed to the punch card. The Coordinator indicated that voters would now need to show a picture I.D.

The issues of supporting eastside businesses was discussed. Several residents indicated that the Food Lion on Hawthorne Road was filthy, therefore residents didn't want to shop there. Mrs. Edwards indicated that she had talked to the manager about the situation.

Captain Tony Jones of the Gainesville Police Department provided crime statistics for 1999, which were compiled by Officer Elizabeth Hamm, the City's Crime Watch Coordinator. He indicated that crime statistics only reflect those reported, and that only 36% of crimes are reported nationwide. Problems were reported in the 1700 block of S.E. 14th Avenue with disturbances and criminal mischief, as well as 18th Terrace and 19th Terrace at 12th Avenue, where a group of men and boys have been hanging out every night. Capt. Jones indicated that there was no curfew in Gainesville. He also indicated that it would be beneficial for the neighborhood to develop a Comprehensive Crime Strategy, which would need to be conducted in a workshop session.



Mr. Walter Booth, Codes Enforcement Officer, discussed codes enforcement issues. He stated that a house on 24th Street has been demolished. He indicated that a new ordinance is being considered for boarded up houses which would put a 2 year time limit on how long properties can be abandoned. He indicated that a notice of violation had been sent out on a property located at 19th Terrace and 20th Street where auto repair was being conducted. A question was asked regarding who is responsible for cleaning a lot when an abandoned house is torn down. Mr. Booth indicated that the property owner is responsible, but if the property owner doesn't clean it, the city will clean the lot and add the cost onto the taxes. A resident indicated that there was a problem with too many parked cars on S.E. 12th Street.

Ms. Winburn indicated that based on previous meetings, four major categories have emerged for the neighborhood: Infrastructure/Traffic; Neighborhood Appearance and Beautification, Human Services/Recreation, and Neighborhood Security. She distributed handouts with each of the major categories, specific issues for each and example goal statements. She indicated that she had planned for the neighborhood to break up into small groups to develop goals and strategies for each major categories. Because the meeting had run later than planned, Mrs. Edwards suggested that this workshop type session be postponed until the next meeting. Ms. Winburn indicated that she would meet with Captain Jones prior to the meeting to coordinate a workshop session to develop a comprehensive crime strategy as well as goals and strategies for the other neighborhood issues.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on February 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at the T.B. McPherson Center.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.



**Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Meeting**

**February 23, 2000**

**T.B. McPherson Center, 5:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

*Prepared by the City of Gainesville Department of Community Development*

Residents discussed lighting in the neighborhood, and Doris Edwards indicated that GRU was supposed to be doing a lighting survey. Mr. Seabie Troy Lloyd of the City's Public Works Department indicated that residents could contact him with any problems related to drainage in the neighborhood. Residents indicated that a ditch on S.E. 18th Terrace needed to be cleaned out as well as a ditch on S.E. 17th Drive between S.E. 17th Street and 17th Terrace.

Kim Gable of GRU discussed a community garden which is going to be established near the Lincoln Estates neighborhood between March and May. Residents discussed what the perimeter of the garden would be surrounded with.

Mr. Walter Booth of the City's Codes Enforcement division addressed resident's questions regarding codes enforcement. Residents indicated that there were people operating car detailing businesses in their front yards, and detailing cars late into the night. Mr. Booth and Capt. Tony Jones of GPD indicated that these locations were being addressed.

Residents indicated that there were 3 vacant lots in the vicinity of 1040 S.E. 18th Terrace that were filthy. Residents asked about city codes related to carports that are full of junk. Mr. Booth indicated that if the junk was under shelter, it was not a violation of the ordinances related to junk, trash and debris. It was indicated that a house on S.E. 22nd Avenue near 12th Street was a problem. Mrs. Edwards indicated that a Keep Alachua County Beautiful Clean up would be held on April 8th.

Residents indicated that people loitering on street corners every afternoon and smoking illegal substances was a problem in the neighborhood, in the vicinity of S.E. 17th Drive and 15th Ave. Capt. Jones indicated that he would ask for additional patrols by GPD.

Residents stated an interest in installing "No Parking" signs in the neighborhood to keep people from parking in the streets and blocking the streets. Mr. Booth indicated that if the problem is illegal parking in the right-of-way, that the GPD Public Service Technicians (PST) could deal with it. Residents asked why the speed humps in the neighborhood couldn't be made narrower. Ms. Winburn indicated that the narrower speed humps like those in some shopping centers posed liability problems for the city because of potential damage to vehicles.

For the remainder of the meeting, residents divided into two groups to develop goals and strategies for categories of major concern to the neighborhood. Ms. Winburn worked with one group on Traffic and Infrastructure issues, and Capt. Jones worked with another

group on Neighborhood Security issues. Ms. Winburn indicated that the issues discussed in each group would be included in the neighborhood's Action Plan, and at the next meeting residents would discuss Neighborhood Appearance and Beautification, and Human Services and Recreation.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 22nd at 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Edwards indicated that a reception for Commissioner Ed Jennings Sr. would be held to acknowledge all of the work he has done for East Gainesville.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

## **Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Meeting**

**April 12, 2000**

**T.B. McPherson Center, 5:30 p.m.**

### **Meeting Summary**

*Prepared by the City of Gainesville Department of Community Development*

The meeting began with a brief presentation by Yohan Clarke, a member of the Southeast Boys Club. Mr. Chuck Chestnut IV, recently elected City Commissioner, also made a brief presentation, discussing his vision for East Gainesville.

Mrs. Doris Edwards announced that a Neighborhood Clean-up and Block Party would be held on Saturday, June 3rd. Several law enforcement officers were in attendance to hear neighborhood concerns. Officer Chris Jackson introduced himself, and indicated that he had been assigned to a zone which includes the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood. Officers announced that the City would soon begin a District Policing system. Residents indicated problems in the neighborhood with kids fighting and hanging out in front of the Boys Club, and asked for additional patrols around the Boys Club between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Walter Booth of the City Code Enforcement office provided an update of recent code enforcement efforts in the neighborhood. He indicated that 65 violations had been noted in the neighborhood, mainly involving inoperative vehicles and junk and trash in yards. Residents provided Mr. Booth with additional problem locations.

Kathy Winburn of the City Planning Department reviewed the outcome of the previous meeting, where the neighborhood had divided into two groups to develop goals and strategies related to Infrastructure/Traffic and Neighborhood Security for inclusion in the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Action Plan. Residents then established goals and strategies related to Landscaping/Beautification and Human Services/Recreation. Ms. Winburn then presented a potential list of projects for funding with the grant funds allocated to the neighborhood by the City Commission.

Discussion ensued on the next steps to be taken to determine options and costs for neighborhood projects. The projects discussed included: providing a crosswalk and improving pedestrian accessibility near the entrance to the Boys Club; landscaping and a neighborhood identification sign at prominent entrances to the neighborhood; Crime Watch signs and bus shelters. Residents indicated that many residents used the bus for transportation and that bus shelters would be advantageous, though there were some concerns about the shelters becoming hang outs. Ms. Edwards asked if it was possible for the city to place bus shelters in the neighborhood without using the grant funds. Ms. Winburn indicated that it was her understanding from RTS that there was currently no funding for new bus shelters, but that there was a priority list for locations that she would bring to the next meeting to see if there were any in Lincoln Estates.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30.

## INFRASTRUCTURE/TRAFFIC

parking on streets

sidewalks (on one side of: S.E. 12th Place; S.E. 13th Place; S.E. 14th Place; within entire neighborhood where lacking)

traffic calming (S.E. 20th St. & 8th Ave. planned)

bus shelters

have to cross ditch between S.E. 14th Ave. and S.E. 15th Ave. to get to bus stop

more lighting (8th Ave., older part)

more cross walks (across from Boys Club; 8th Ave. near Kennedy Homes- like the one near U.F. Campus Police Dept.

street curbing

lower speed humps on 12th Ave.

children at play signs (*city does not install these because there is an inferred degree of safety, which results in a liability issue*)

### EXAMPLE GOAL STATEMENTS

**The purpose of this component is to improve the physical aspects of the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood**

**Goal: Provide useful sidewalks and street lighting for the safety of all residents in the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood**

*Strategies would then describe how to accomplish this and where certain improvements are needed*

## NEIGHBORHOOD APPEARANCE AND BEAUTIFICATION

### Landscaping

- median on S.E. 15th Street with flowering trees
- S.E. 12th Street and 15th Street (gateway to neighborhood)

neighborhood identification (signs?)

shopping carts and bottles left in neighborhood

beautification of bus stops

clean-up vacant lots

codes enforcement

junk cars

clean-up vacant lots

animal control

### Example Goal Statement

**The purpose of this component is to improve the overall appearance of the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood**

**Goal: To enhance the appearance of gateways and entrances to the neighborhood**

**Goal: Decrease the amount of litter throughout the entire neighborhood**

*Strategies would then describe HOW to accomplish the goal*

## **HUMAN SERVICES/RECREATION**

### **Senior Services**

- many seniors living alone need lawns cut, trash put out, etc.
- social service coordinator needed
- Keystone Club could assist with goals related to this category

Safe places for children

Tot lot needed

**The purpose of this component is to make the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood a place where all residents can go to enjoy various recreational and educational activities, and where services are provided to residents with special needs**

### **Example Goals**

**Goal: Increase the use of the T.B. McPherson Center**

**Goal: Increase the services provided to residents with special needs**

*Strategies would then describe HOW to accomplish the goals*

## **NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY**

### *Police Related Issues*

The purpose of this component is to identify methods to reduce any illegal activity in the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood

#### **Example Goal:**

Goal: Reduce illegal activity in the neighborhood by bring resources together such as the Police Department and Codes Enforcement Division

Goal: Reduce crime throughout the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood

Strategies would then describe HOW to accomplish the goals



# LINCOLN ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING



**WHEN:** WEDNESDAY, MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>  
**WHERE:** T.B. MCPHERSON CENTER  
**TIME:** 6:00 P.M.

**TOPIC:** STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR OUR BIG JUNE  
NEIGHBORHOOD "CLEAN UP"

We're going to need lots of volunteers to make this successful, you can sign up at the meeting.

*Thanks for making your neighborhood a better place to live.*

*Doris Edwards  
Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Chairperson  
EGDTF Neighborhood Coalition  
378-3178*

clip

## \* TELL US WHAT YOU NEED \*

We'll clean yards for the sick and elderly.

We'll help able bodied people with yard tasks but you must participate.

Trucks will come right to your door to pick up old furniture etc. , (everything but refrigerators)

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
**REQUEST** \_\_\_\_\_

\* June 10<sup>th</sup> is the clean up date (Lincoln Estates Only) (Box at Mcpherson for request)  
request deadline Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> , 5:00 p.m. (Call Mrs Edwards 378-3178 questions)





**Y-O-U**

*have been Empowered to  
Help develop the updated  
Gainesville Comprehensive Plan*

**COME**

>Share your vision

>Voice your opinion

**ON**

**HOUSING, LAND USE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
AT**

***COMMUNITY WORKSHOP 2000***



**Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>  
T.B. McPherson Center  
1717 S.E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
5:30 P.M.**

Questions? Call kathy Winburn 334-5022 or Doris Edwards 378-3178

**\*\* Lincoln Estates residents are encouraged to attend.**

\*Dinner Served  Promptly at 5:30

07-24-2000



Minutes from meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding National Night Out  
Held at 6:00 P.M. in the home of the Mickles, 1635 S.E. 14th Avenue

Our brief meeting was very productive, we decided that Lincoln Estates would participate in National Night Out which is scheduled for **Tuesday August 1<sup>st</sup>**. Our theme which was suggested by Erica Jackson is "LINCOLN ESTATES, LIGHTING A BRIGHTER PATH"

1. **Food:** Hotdogs, baked beans, snacks, popcorn, drink
2. **Poster Participation:** by the S.E. Boys/Girls Club and T. B. McPherson Center, each will submit three different age categories, we'll judge the posters.
3. **Light Walk:** At 8:30 P.M. we'll walk approximately a mile in our neighborhood. We'll station lookouts on each corner to motivate and cheer us on. Clad in flashing lights and glowing objects we start the walk at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> terrace and 15<sup>th</sup> avenue, which is where we will eventually return. A copy of the walk route is attached. I'm working on possibly having a van to ride elderly and disabled that want to participate.

**SET UP LOCATION:** (South end of S.E. 17<sup>th</sup> Terr.) Beside Mr. & Mrs. Mickles home  
1635 S.E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, look for cones

I need your assistance at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday August 1<sup>st</sup> in the following areas:

- A. Help set up
- B. Need a grill
- C. Help grill hot dogs
- D. Bring chairs to share, folding or lawn
- E. Remember insect repellent

Lets make this happen, it will be fun.

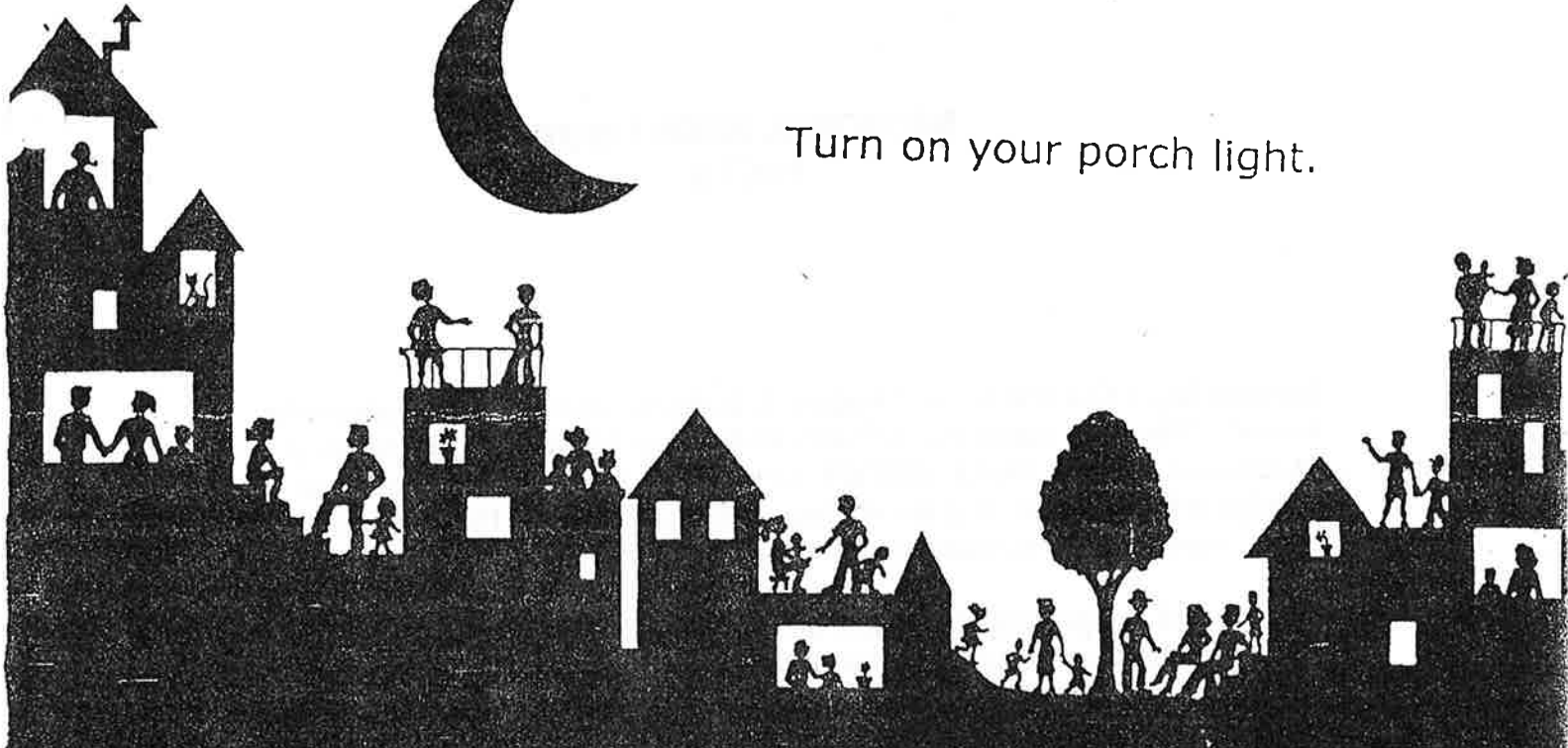
Thanks so much!!

Doris Edwards  
Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Chair  
378-3178





Turn on your porch light.



NATIONAL  
**TOGETHER**  
**WE CAN**  
**KEEP**  
**OUR**  
**COMMUNITIES**  
**SAFE**  
**AND**  
**STRONG**<sup>®</sup>

*America's Night Out Against Crime*

August 1, 2000  
7:00-9:00 P.M.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT FACTS

National Night Out will be held August 1, 2000, which is the first Tuesday in August. This year marks the 17<sup>th</sup> annual National Night Out. The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) sponsors the program. The goal is to develop effective year-long community-police partnerships that can reduce crime, violence, and substance abuse at the community level.

A spin-off of the program is Project 365, which helps communities identify specific problem areas and then work to resolve these problems over the next 365 days. Project 365 begins the day of National Night Out and ends 365 days later. Some examples of this program would be the cleanup of parks, the removal and prevention of graffiti, the establishment of domestic violence and homeless prevention initiatives, and an increase in the number of Neighborhood Watch groups and in crime prevention programming in multifamily housing areas.

### Numbers to call:

National Association of Town Watch	1-800-648-3688 or 610-649-7055
Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse	1-800-688-4252
U.S. Department of Justice Response Center	1-800-421-6770

**To register your neighborhood, or for more information, please call Officer Elizabeth Ham at the Gainesville Police Department 352-334-2479.**



LINCOLN ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

AGENDA OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup> 2000

Meeting to Order:	Mrs. Doris Edwards Neighborhood Chairperson
Welcome:	Mr. Joshua Jackson Lincoln Estates Resident
Community Development Grant Update:	Ms. Cathy Winburn
Political Candidates:	2 minutes each
Florida Democratic Coordinated Campaign:	Mr. Shelley P Davis Legislative Liaison
Public Works Update:	Mr. Stewart Pierson Mr. Seabie Lloyd
Code Enforcement Follow up	Mr. Walter Booth
Citizens Concerns:	Gainesville Police South District Team
Adjourn	

*Thank you for making a difference!!*

**\*\*Note; next meeting dates: November 15<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>  
@ T.B. McPherson, 5.30 PM**

**Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Meeting**

**October 25, 2000**

**T.B. McPherson Center, 5:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

*Prepared by the City of Gainesville Department of Community Development*

The meeting began with a welcome by Mr. Joshua Jackson, and with Doris Edwards, Neighborhood Chair, reviewing the recent accomplishments in and around the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood, including: the incubator project on Hawthorne Road, construction of the S.E. Boys Club Teen Center, a grant received to upgrade the playground equipment at the T.B. McPherson Center, the School Board buy out of the King Food Store, speed humps installed in the neighborhood, strong participation for the Crime Watch "National Night Out" on August 1<sup>st</sup>, and participation in the City's Neighborhood Planning Program.

Kathy Winburn, of the City of Gainesville Planning Department, reviewed potential projects, as determined by residents in previous meetings, which could be funded with neighborhood planning grant funds. She indicated that she had met with Mrs. Edwards, Linda Dixon of the City Public Works Department, and several residents at the entrance to the S.E. Boys Club in May to discuss potential improvement projects. Since that time, Ms. Dixon developed a list of feasible projects and cost estimates, which were reviewed at the meeting (see attached). Ms. Winburn indicated that there were many options to choose from, and suggested that the neighborhood establish a subcommittee to review and prioritize the projects, and make a presentation at the next meeting. It was agreed that a subcommittee would be formed, and would try to meet before the next meeting.

Mr. Shelley Davis of the Florida Democratic Coordinated Campaign discussed the upcoming election and the importance of voting the democratic ticket.

Mr. Stu Pearson and Mr. Seabie Lloyd of the City's Public Works Department discussed projects in the neighborhood. Mr. Pearson indicated that the City is working on establishing the best location for a walking path in the 10 acre stormwater park to the east of the neighborhood. Maintenance of the stormwater basins and problems with an aerator were discussed. Mrs. Edwards indicated that the neighborhood has set up a subcommittee to deal with issues related to the stormwater park. The maintenance of a ditch between 17<sup>th</sup> Drive and 17<sup>th</sup> Terrace was also discussed. Mrs. Edwards indicated that in her opinion, the CDBG project to cover and pipe a problem ditch in the neighborhood needs to be completed sooner than the scheduled 2002-2003 fiscal year.

Mr. Walter Booth with the City's Code Enforcement Division provided an update on code enforcement in the neighborhood. He discussed a new city ordinance that limits the amount of time that a house can be boarded to one year, at which time it would have to be repaired or demolished. He also discussed training for a new citizen notification program for code violations involving post cards which would be mailed to violators by citizens,

with a copy of the postcard being sent to the City Code Enforcement division for follow-up.

Gainesville Police Department officers from the South District Team introduced themselves and heard citizen concerns. Officers indicated that the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood is in zone "Tango" of the new district policing program, and that GPD was making a list of problem properties, which would be coordinated with Code Enforcement. Lighting was indicated to be a problem at S.E. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. and S.E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

It was announced that the next meeting was scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.



Lincoln Estates – SE 12 Ave. and SE 17 St.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. <b>Sidewalk:</b> SE 17 St, west side from SE 12 Ave. to Boys Club (approximately 70' at 6' width)	\$ 840
2. <b>New curb:</b> SE 17 St., west side from SE 12 Ave. to Boys Club Type "D", (approximately 70')	\$ 1,250
3. <b>Crosswalks:</b> connecting the NW corner and SW corner across SE 12 Ave; <u>and</u> connecting the SW corner and SE corner across SE 17 St. (pavement width is 22')	
Option 1: High visibility thermoplastic	\$ 250
Option 2: All brick crosswalks (440 sq. ft.)	\$ 6,000
Option 3: Concrete crosswalks with brick pattern/edging (440 sq. ft.)	\$ 3,000
Option 4: All brick intersection (1,050 sq. ft.)	\$ 12,000
4. <b>Corner Reconstruction:</b> reconstructing corners with Type "D" curbing, new curb ramps and modified turn radii to increase pedestrian staging areas. To be constructed on all four corners (approx. 400' new curb).	\$ 6,000
5. <b>Four-Way Stop:</b> create four-way stop at SE 12 Ave. and SE 17 St.	No Charge
6. <b>Resurfacing:</b> SE 17 St. from SE 12 Ave. to Boys Club	No Charge
a. Work order for patching has been submitted	
b. Total resurfacing to take place when the rest of SE 17 St. is resurfaced (not currently in the resurfacing work program)	
7. <b>No Parking Signs:</b> Along both sides of SE 17 St. from SE 12 Ave. to Boys Club Caution: The signs may not be effective without aggressive enforcement	No Charge

LINCOLN ESTATES CRIME  
STATISTICS  
1991

# APPENDIX B CRIME STATISTICS

Year	Category	Value
1980	...	...
1981	...	...
1982	...	...
1983	...	...
1984	...	...
1985	...	...
1986	...	...
1987	...	...
1988	...	...
1989	...	...
1990	...	...
1991	...	...

# LINCOLN ESTATES CRIME STATISTICS 1999

<u>INCIDENT</u>	<u>AUG - DEC</u>	<u>MARCH- JULY</u>
Homicide	0	0
Lost/Stolen Tag	4	1
Stolen Auto	1	2
Alcohol Violation	1	0
Narcotics Violation	7	11
Prowler	1	0
Sex Offense	0	1
Theft	6	4
Person Shot	0	0
Person Stabbed	0	0
Criminal Mischief	7	1
Juvenile Problem	11	19
Vice Violation	0	0
Suspicious Person	10	0
Burglary	7	9
Disturbance	24	28
Robbery	1	1
Assault/Battery	13	11

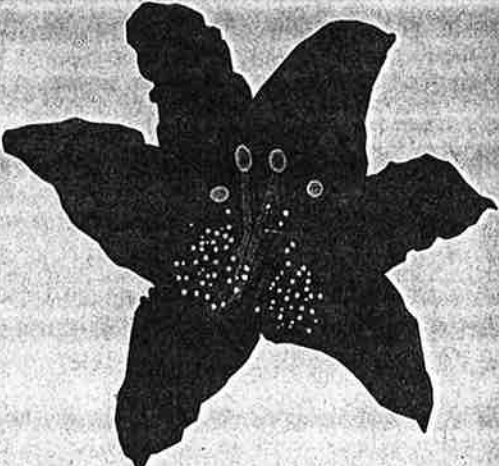
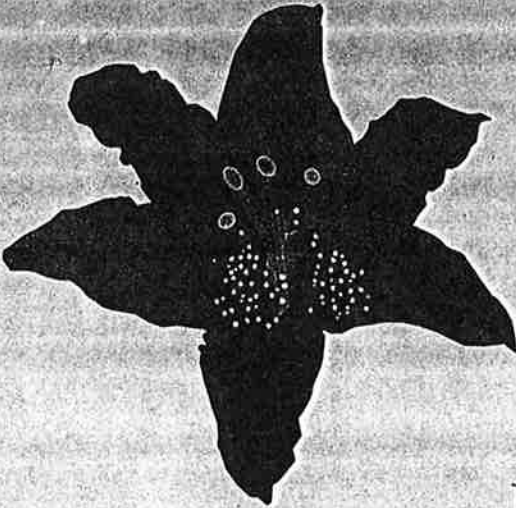


Exhibit C

# **HIBISCUS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN**

Prepared by Hibiscus Park Neighborhood Residents and the  
City of Gainesville Department of Community Development

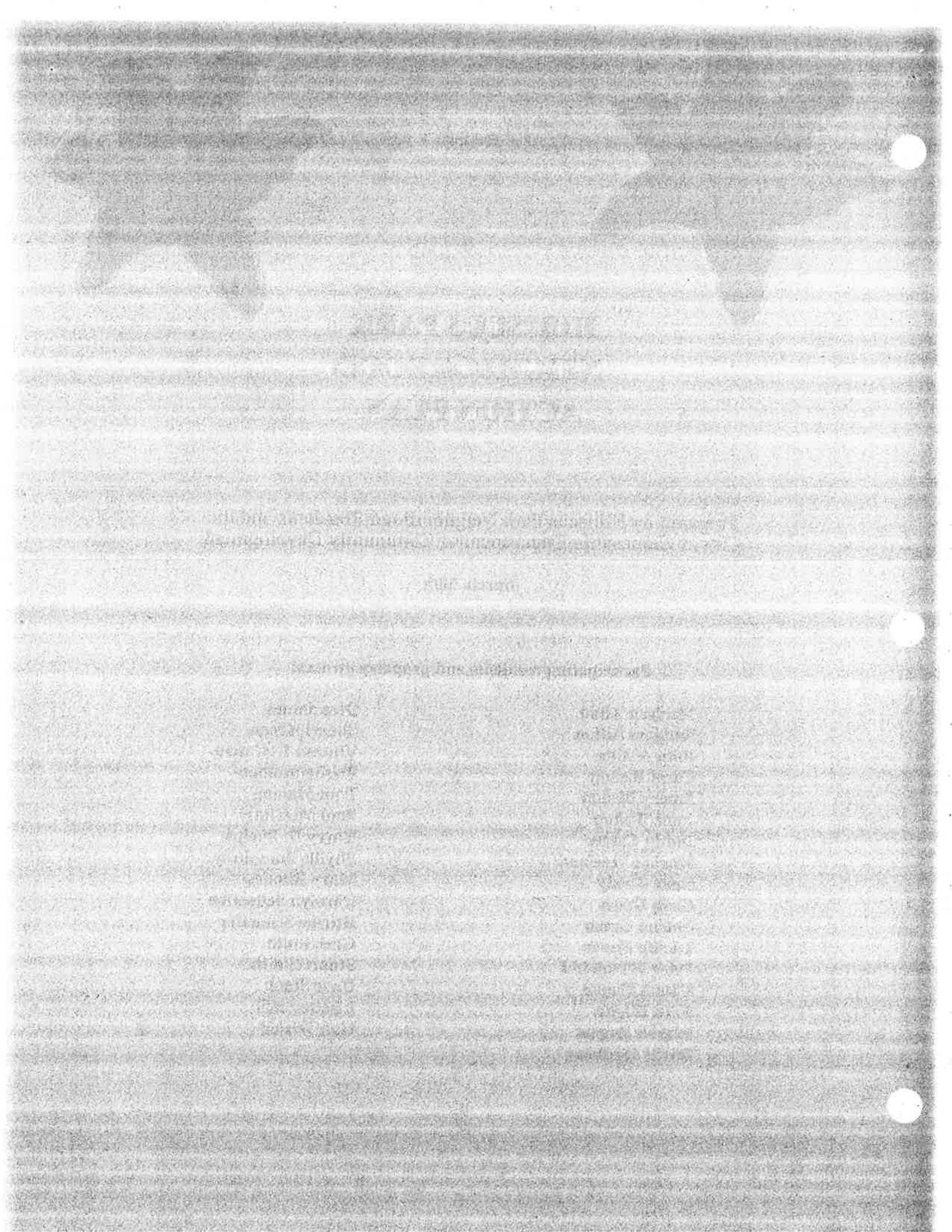
March 2001

## **Participating residents and property owners:**

**Marleen Aiton  
Rodgers Aiton  
John Atkins  
Carol Bishop  
Emery Bishop  
Janis Bishop  
Juddy Carter  
Marion Freeland  
Scott Grady  
Greg Gresh  
Norine Gresh  
Lucille Haven  
Peter Hirschfeld  
Chuck Hogan  
John Hogan  
Muriel Hogan  
David Huffman**

**Dess James  
Sheryl Kroen  
Vincent LoCascio  
Prisha Malone  
Tom Malone  
Paul McGinty  
Harry D. Phelps  
Phyllis Pumphrey  
Mary Rhodes  
Carolyn Schaeffer  
Hurley Schaeffer  
Geri Smith  
Stuart Smith  
Dave Staal  
Lisette Staal  
Gail Wisler**





**Hibiscus Park  
Neighborhood Action Team**

**Neighborhood Planning:**

Kathy Winburn, Senior Planner  
Thomas Center Building B, 2nd floor  
302 N.E. 6th Avenue  
334-5022

**Public Works/Traffic Engineering:**

Stewart Pearson, City Engineer  
Phil Mann, Traffic Engineer II  
Thomas Center Building B, 3rd floor  
302 N.E. 6th Avenue  
334-5072

**Codes Enforcement:**

Chris Singletary, Code Enforcement Officer  
Thomas Center Building B, 1st floor  
334-5030

**Parks and Recreation:**

Pat Byrne, Parks Manager  
Mitch Morgan, General Construction/Maintenance Supervisor  
334-2171

**Gainesville Police Department:**

Lt. Carol Bishop  
721 N.W. 6th Street  
334-2400

**Solid Waste:**

Steve Joplin, Solid Waste Inspector  
Gina Hawkins, Recycling Coordinator  
Old Library Building, 2nd floor  
334-5040



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## PART I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Gainesville Neighborhood Planning Program is a collaborative process between the City and the residents that live and work in neighborhoods. The program helps to build stronger community relationships; improve communication between the neighborhood and the City; define neighborhood goals and issues, and explore alternatives for achieving desired neighborhood and city priorities. The Neighborhood Planning Program provides a forum for residents to initiate rather than react to change. Further, the neighborhood planning process addresses issues and opportunities at a scale which is more refined and responsive to neighborhood needs. The program includes the designation of city staff from various departments to serve as a Neighborhood Action Team, assisting designated neighborhoods to meet goals, address needs and implement projects. The end product of the neighborhood planning program is the development of a neighborhood action plan, which identifies neighborhood issues and projects, and should serve as a guide for future enhancement of the neighborhood, and for directing and managing change.

The 1999-2000 Neighborhood Planning Program included the designation of two neighborhoods for participation. The Hibiscus Park Neighborhood, along with the Lincoln Estates Neighborhood, was designated by the City Commission for participation in the fall of 1999. The City Commission allocated \$15,000 in neighborhood planning grant dollars to each participating neighborhood to implement the program and for physical improvement projects located in the city right-of-way or on city owned property. The funding allocated for small, physical improvement projects is provided based on the belief that people working together to provide tangible improvements in the neighborhood helps to instill a sense of neighborhood pride, thereby building stronger communities. The projects chosen by the neighborhood should help to create a common identity or sense of community in the neighborhood.

Neighborhood participation is the cornerstone of the Neighborhood Planning Program, and development of a neighborhood action plan is completely neighborhood driven. The plan is divided into issue areas and contains the goals and strategies as recommended by the neighborhood through a series of neighborhood meetings, beginning in October 1999. Brief summaries of the meetings are provided in Section III, and more detailed summaries are provided in Appendix A.

**The main purpose of this plan is to provide the neighborhood with a working document to continue to work on long and short-term goals beyond the city sponsored neighborhood planning process, thereby contributing to the quality of Gainesville's neighborhoods and neighborhood organization network.**



## **PART II**

### **Overview of the Hibiscus Park Neighborhood**

The Hibiscus Park Neighborhood was first platted in 1925 (boundaries of the neighborhood are provided in Map 1). The neighborhood is located just to the north of West University Avenue near the University of Florida and about a quarter mile west of the University president's home. The architectural style of the neighborhood includes fine examples of Craftsman-like and Period revival homes. During the 1920's and 30's research has shown that many of the University of Florida faculty abandoned other parts of the city in favor of new places like Hibiscus Park. As such, the neighborhood has a history of serving as a popular place for faculty to live. The neighborhood still has residents who have lived there since the 1950's. Over time, the demographic characteristic of the neighborhood has gradually changed from a high percentage of resident home owners associated with the University of Florida faculty to a high percentage of University of Florida student renters occupying the neighborhood.

The neighborhood is self-contained, with no cross connections between other neighborhoods to the east and west. There are three north-south streets which enter the neighborhood from University Avenue. There is no outlet from these streets, as the neighborhood is bounded to the north by a lake and lowlands. The streets in the neighborhood are paved but narrow, and not in pristine condition. Most streets in the neighborhood appear to be in need of resurfacing. A regulated sinkhole is located near the neighborhood center. The sinkhole is predominantly dry and unlandscaped, leaving the potential for aesthetic improvement.

The neighborhood includes approximately 100 lots, and is zoned RSF-3 (single-family residential at 5 to 8 dwelling units per acre). According to Property Appraiser records, approximately 50% of the lots are not homesteaded, therefore it can be assumed that most of these lots are rental properties (Figure 2 indicates properties with landlord licenses as of December 1999). The neighborhood is located in the University of Florida Master Plan Context Area. The City Commission approved an ordinance in 1997 which restricts yard parking in the Context Area for properties zoned for single-family use. The purpose of the ordinance is to help predominantly single-family neighborhoods preserve their single-family character near the University of Florida, like Hibiscus Park, by taking measures for improvement, particularly in terms of safety and aesthetics. As such, front-yard parking requirements apply to the neighborhood.

The neighborhood is officially part of the University Park Neighborhood Association, but has generally not participated with the association in the past. Initial meetings with the neighborhood proved, however, that a core group of residents were enthusiastic about participating in the Neighborhood Planning Program, becoming more organized, and working towards improving the neighborhood.

## **PART III CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

The first meeting with the Hibiscus Park Neighborhood was on December 1, 1999. The neighborhood did not have an organized association, therefore staff developed a list of neighborhood contacts and mailed out approximately 20 meeting notices and surveys prior to the first meeting. Fifteen residents and one landlord attended the first meeting. For subsequent meetings, staff mailed out a notice to all Hibiscus Park residents and property owners.

The following is a brief meeting summary of each meeting held. (More detailed meeting summaries are provided in Appendix A).

### **December 1, 1999:**

The first meeting with the Hibiscus Park Neighborhood was for the purpose of determining whether the neighborhood would be interested in participating in the Neighborhood Planning Program. Fifteen residents were in attendance. Staff explained the program, and residents expressed an interest in participating. Much of the meeting was spent identifying neighborhood issues and concerns. Residents asked staff to provide information on rental property owners and landlord licenses in the neighborhood.

### **January 26, 2000:**

At the second meeting of the Hibiscus Park Neighborhood, members of the Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) of city staff representatives made presentations on city services and the role of their respective department's in neighborhoods. Representatives in attendance were from the Planning Department, Code Enforcement, Public Works, Solid Waste, Parks and Recreation and GPD. Many neighborhood issues were discussed, and several concerns subsequently addressed as a result of meeting with staff representatives. As a result of the first meeting and survey results, staff identified four major categories of major concern, which are discussed in Section IV.

### **March 1, 2000:**

The third meeting of the Hibiscus Park Neighborhood included updates from city departments related to issues identified at the previous meeting. A presentation was made by the president of the University Park Neighborhood Association. A presentation was also made by the City Engineer related to potential improvements for a regulated sink hole in the neighborhood. Cost estimates were provided. A portion of the meeting was spent in a workshop session to identify goals and strategies for the neighborhood.

**April 13, 2000:**

The fourth meeting of the Hibiscus Park Neighborhood resulted in the development of two subcommittees: one to evaluate and make proposals for improving a sinkhole and the other to address all other issues. Discussion took place regarding code enforcement and options for improving the sinkhole. It was suggested that a poll be taken of the neighborhood to determine what the neighborhood's priorities are on the various options for neighborhood projects.

**June 28, 2000:** At the fifth meeting of the Hibiscus Park Neighborhood, City Code Enforcement and Public Works staff provided updates and new information. Subcommittees were created to develop recommendations on the neighborhood sinkhole and neighborhood beautification. The results of a project priority survey were reviewed.

**August 30, 2000:** At the sixth neighborhood meeting, a representative from the University Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) discussed participation in a new City Codes Enforcement program. The neighborhood discussed hiring a landscape architect to develop a landscape plan for the sinkhole and neighborhood entrances.

**September 28, 2000:** Representatives of the neighborhood met at the sinkhole with Dana McClain, landscape architect, to discuss a landscape plan.

**February 7, 2001:** The neighborhood met to review the landscape plan for the sinkhole and make a final decision on neighborhood projects. An update was provided on the City's University Ad Hoc Committee.

**March 7, 2001:** The neighborhood met with Parks and Recreation Department staff to finalize plans for landscape implementation.

