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STRATEGIC INITIATIVE # 8.2

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**GOAL # 8: PARTNERSHIPS**



*Champion effective and institutionalized relationships with other government entities and community partners*

INITIATIVE 8.2: INCREASE INVOLVEMENT OF CITY IN IMPROVING QUALITY OF CITY SCHOOLS (EX. RAISING CANES PROGRAM)

**Champion:** Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager  
**Sponsoring Commissioner:** Craig Lowe, Commissioner (District IV)

**Committee:** Audit, Finance & Legislative Committee

**Stakeholders:** University of Florida (UF), Santa Fe College (SFC), Alachua County Public Schools (ACPS), Alachua County, State Government, Federal Government

**Desired Outcome:** Maximize opportunities for City partnerships with ACPS to improve the quality of schools attended by City residents.

**Background:** This Strategic Initiative was first introduced by the City Commission in December, 2006 at the Strategic Planning Retreat. The Initiative was later adopted and added to the Strategic Plan on February 12, 2007, then adopted again on February 25, 2008 as an on-going initiative.

**Progress to Date:**

During FY 2007, the Raising 'Canes program was implemented, under which Gainesville High School (GHS) was adopted.

**Supporting Documentation:**

None at this time.

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**Action Plan for City Schools for FYs 2009 – 2010**

Action Steps	Estimated Completion Date:
1. Create a workgroup to support this initiative	September 2008
2. Review, modify and sustain Raising ‘Canes program	On-going
3. Conduct research to understand the situation as it exists today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify schools City residents attend</li> <li>▪ Inventory and review existing ACPS partnerships</li> <li>▪ Analyze distribution of school funding</li> <li>▪ Identify ACPS needs</li> </ul>	June 2009
4. Conduct a peer city review to identify best practices	September 2009
5. Develop and seek City and ACPS approval of a plan that identifies key opportunities for partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engage students to participate in City programs</li> <li>▪ Identify resources and request funding as appropriate</li> </ul>	February 2010
6. Implement and monitor	October 2010

**Critical Success Measures:**

- Number of volunteer hours that City employees contribute to the Raising ‘Canes program
- Number of students involved in the Raising ‘Canes program
- Improved FCAT scores (important measure, but not controlled by the City)
- Improved high school graduation rates (important measure, but not controlled by the City)