

City of Gainesville Federal and State Agenda

SUPPORT A STRONG ECONOMY – The City will support a stronger economy through a major community and economic development initiative that supports small business, diverse job opportunities and accessibility to capital.

Major Community and Economic Development Initiative

1. Cornerstone

A 13.6 acre development is the largest undertakings of the Eastside Redevelopment District include the redevelopment of the Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) area and the former Kennedy Homes site. The master plan includes a mixed use site with up to ten new commercial buildings, which will provide opportunities to retain GTEC business incubator graduates on site as well as attract new economic activity to the area.

Impact: The project aims to holistically address both the natural wetlands and improved storm water facilities to find the best mix to serve the needs of the projects.

Request: The project will be implemented in a single phase with the wetland and natural area/amenity creation as a segment of the horizontal improvements (\$1.9M).

2. Heartwood Community

The Heartwood Community is owned by the City of Gainesville (COG), located at 1717 SE 8th Avenue in Gainesville, FL. This important historic residential area has been the heart of the African-American community in Gainesville. The 15 acre parcel was the site of the Former Kennedy Homes public housing complex. The housing project was demolished due to disrepair in 2003 and purchased by the City of Gainesville in 2007.

Impact: Due to historical conditions the wetlands are in serious decline. A rare property rich with natural beauty including wildlife, wetlands, towering full oak trees and more, the proposed site is the beginning of a vibrant community that will enhance existing culture and enrich the quality of life.

Request:

The project will be implemented in a single phase with the wetland and natural area/amenity creation as a segment of the horizontal improvements (\$2.1).

FOSTER GREATER EQUITY – The City will foster greater equity by creating criminal justice, youth and violence prevention initiative and supporting accessibility to services, neighborhood preservation, affordable & accessible housing.

Criminal Justice, Youth and Violence Prevention Initiative

1.Reichert House Youth Academy

Reichert House would like to expand its program to include a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program. Statistics show that STEM fields are currently dominated by white and Asian males, and minorities in underserved or struggling communities are at risk of being left behind. Many of our students lack access to up-to-date laboratories, laptops, tablets, computers, and internet access. The vision of Reichert House is to continue to address issues that have historically affected at-risk youth, but t students with access to a strong STEM education program which will lead to increased interest and improved attitudes toward STEM fields and careers. This will be accomplished through a partnership with the University of Florida.

Impact: The Reichert House after School Program (ASP) ensures safety for the students, provides supportive adult supervised environment, promotes academic, personal, social, and recreational development. The partnership with the University of Florida athletes and educational departments allows their students to earn volunteer community hours by tutoring the students.

Request: Establish STEM Program through partnership with the University of Florida – Reichert House requests \$200,000.00. The students will gain real life experience on a college campus and the financial support will allow the students to work closely with college students and increase their chances of attending college and reduce the risk of dropping out of school. Additionally, the grant will allow the Reichert House to secure three Graduate Assistant (GA) students from the University of Florida Education Department. Each GA will work closely with our Elementary, Middle and High School teachers’ when performing their tutorial session.

2. Brave Overt Leaders of Distinction (BOLD)

BOLD is a re-entry program for males between the ages of 18-24. The program works in collaboration with multiple community partners to allow young men with criminal records or adverse backgrounds, the opportunity to achieve goals and receive services to become law abiding, tax paying citizens in the community.

Impact: to allow young men with criminal records or adverse backgrounds, the opportunity to achieve goals and receive services to become law abiding, tax paying citizens in the community.

Request: \$200,000 to provide assistance in vocational training, job opportunities and placement.

3. Mental Health & Public Education for Violence Prevention

The Gainesville Police Department is coordinating efforts between Meridian Behavioral Health Services, CDS Family and Behavioral Health Services, Inc., Alachua County Schools, the Court System (Eighth Judicial Circuit, FL) and Juvenile Justice Providers to develop a System of Care (SOC) for youth. Support services will include referrals for individual and family counseling, psychiatric referral, diversion to community conferencing, teen court, and restorative justice programs, mentoring, testing, and assessment.

Impact: to assess behavioral issues and collaboratively intervene with the student and family before these issues become arrestable offenses

Request: Funding in the amount of \$50,000 to support the development of the SOC to provide training to faculty, counselors and law enforcement officers for the purpose of improving communication with youth and families in crisis.

4. Domestic Violence

Alachua County Office of Victim Services Rape Crisis Center will launch a website for anonymous reports of sexual assault. The site provides information about intimate partner violence, victim rights and free resources available in the community. The University of Florida will work with GPD to develop videos aimed at sexual assault prevention that will aired as public service announcements

Impact: Continue to expand outreach efforts and to address the effects of domestic and intimate partner violence in our community with increase awareness about prevention and support.

Request: In order to complete our domestic violence videos for public service announcements, we are requesting federal assistance in the amount of \$50,000.

5. Police-Youth Dialogues

As a response to RED (Racial and Ethnic Disparities) the Gainesville Police Department began holding monthly Police-Youth Dialogues in April of 2014. These dialogs bring twelve Officers and twelve youths between the ages of fourteen and twenty-three together in order to promote trust and understanding between the two groups.

Impact: to positively affect future interactions, helping the youth develop a new understanding of Police Officers and the Law, and enhancing the Officers' ability to de-escalate complex interactions with the youth.

Request: Funding needs associated with this program include costs to pay the facilitator from the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding (\$150 per session); along with advertising costs to promote the program to the community (radio/television advertisement costs \$5,000).

PLAN FOR A BETTER FUTURE through transportation and public safety initiatives that will support youth, seniors, families, programming, sustainability and natural resources.

Transportation Infrastructure and Public Safety Initiative

1. SW 62nd Blvd

The SW 62nd Blvd is a critical roadway project that will facilitate the movement of people and goods through the Gainesville Metropolitan Area, enhancing access to major employment centers, and alleviating congestion on the Federal Highway System (FHS). The project implements a new corridor with accommodation for multimodal facilities, enhancing safety and connectivity.

Impact: The project will serve as a reliever to the I-75 corridor between the interchanges of SR24/Archer Road and SR26/Newberry Road, reducing local traffic along the interstate, and aligning with federal and state objectives for enhanced capacity and mobility of long-distance freight and passengers resulting in decreased congestion, improved safety, and enhanced economic benefits for the region.

Request: The total cost of the project as a 2 lane corridor is estimated at approximately \$17 million. The City has a total of \$1.2 million in local match, not inclusive of other private contributions that enabled the completion of a segment of the project in 2015/2016. Approximately \$5 million is needed for right-of-way acquisition and \$10 million for construction of the project.

2. Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Program

From January to December of 2014 there were 122 bicycle and pedestrian related crashes in the city of Gainesville. A bicycle and pedestrian safety program is needed in order to prevent these collisions and to work toward a goal of zero deaths or serious injuries on our roads by 2025. Over half (55%) of these crashes occurred at intersections with marked crosswalks, indicating a need for education about who has the right of way and the need for vigilance when passing through intersections. Data from San Francisco's Walk First program showed that a driver failing to yield the right of way was the top factor in pedestrian crashes. A comprehensive education program followed by strong enforcement will increase awareness of existing traffic laws and safe practices for all street users.

Impact: Reduced crashes resulting in few serious injuries and deaths and significantly reduced property damage.

Request: Seek funding for 60K for enforcement and 80K for education which would include targeted promotional spots. The state currently provides money for the pedestrian program and partners with the University of Florida.

BECOME A COMMUNITY MODEL FOR THE WORLD through innovations from public safety and the public sector, connect local talent to issues, urban informatics and developing fellowship programs.

1. Body Worn Camera

According to a Mesa (Arizona) pilot program, officers received 40% fewer complaints with cameras and had 75% fewer use of force complaints with cameras. An effort by the Gainesville Police Department's effort to be transparent to the community and more efficient the department will utilize body worn cameras. The cameras will also illicit community trust and improve outcomes in use of force and citizen complaints. This effort will mirror the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing executive summary under pillar three. The Gainesville Police Department continues to be an innovator and leader in community policing.

Impact: the technology is perhaps most effective at actually preventing escalation during police-public interactions: whether that's abusive behaviour towards police or unnecessary use-of-force by police.

Request: In order to implement our body camera program, we are requesting federal assistance in the amount of \$629,000.

PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING AND POLICY:

Affordable Housing: Supports the William E. Sadowski Act of 1992 that creates a dedicated source of revenue for housing from a portion of documentary stamp taxes on the transfer of real estate.

Cultural Arts and Heritage Programs: Supports programs that provide an outlet for expression, and open dialog to assistance youth in coping with negative behavior.

Economic and Workforce Development: Support collaboration and partnerships to create forward-thinking, business-driven job growth policies that enhance the workforce by increasing career and entrepreneurship opportunities.

- Support broadband programs and policies that support competitive, fast, affordable, and reliable internet in Gainesville.
- Support net neutrality policies

Emergency Communication System: Supports a mechanism for collection of the E911 fee on prepaid wireless services by retailers at the point of sale and establishes a new category in the E911 Trust Fund for revenues derived from this fee.

Florida Forever/Florida Community Trust – Supports full funding of the Florida Forever

Program and the distribution of funds that support water and land conservation needs for the State of Florida.

Utilities: Supports local solutions for community concerns and needs for governance of the City utility.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

The City of Gainesville supports select priorities from Alachua County, Alachua County School Board, Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Santa Fe College, University of Florida, and Career Source of North Central Florida

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