

1 **RESOLUTION NO. _____**
2

3 **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF**
4 **GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE UNITING AMERICAN**
5 **FAMILIES ACT OF 2009, RELATING TO THE EQUAL APPLICATION**
6 **OF THE IMMIGRATION LAWS TO SAME SEX PERMANENT**
7 **PARTNERS OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LAWFUL**
8 **PERMANENT RESIDENTS; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE**
9 **CLERK OF THE COMMISSION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE**
10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Gainesville (“City Commission”)
13 believes that an important goal under U.S. immigration law is family unification and the ability
14 of families and individuals to reside legally in the U.S., engaging fully in our country’s rich civil
15 traditions and form of government; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission respects all immigrant groups and all families,
17 including those of same-sex gay and lesbian partners; and

18 **WHEREAS**, currently pending in the United States Congress is the Uniting American
19 Families Act of 2009 (H.R. 1024/S. 424), reintroduced on February 12, 2009, by Representative
20 Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-8) and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT). The purpose of this bill is “to
21 amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws
22 by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to
23 obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful
24 permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent
25 partnerships”; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Uniting American Families Act of 2009 would allow same-sex
27 relationships to be treated no differently from opposite-sex relationships and all legal
28 requirements of qualifying under the statute; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission has consistently supported and respected the rights of
30 all people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals through various official
31 actions including antidiscrimination ordinances covering sexual orientation, a domestic

1 partnership registry for same- and opposite-sex couples, and domestic partner benefits for city
2 employees; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission supports H.R 1024/S.424, commonly known as the
4 Uniting American Families Act of 2009, to allow gay and lesbian partners to access immigration
5 benefits in an equal and fair manner, equivalent to opposite-sex partners who currently enjoy
6 such legal rights.

7 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE**
8 **CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:**

9 **Section 1.** The City Commission declares its support for the passage of the H.R.
10 1024/S.424 (Uniting American Families Act of 2009) that amends the Immigration and
11 Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent
12 partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent
13 resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to
14 penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

15 **Section 2.** The Clerk of the Commission is hereby authorized and directed to send copies
16 of this Resolution to the members of the Alachua County Federal Legislative Delegation.

17 **Section 3.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.
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21 _____
22 CRAIG LOWE
23 MAYOR

24 ATTEST: APPROVED AS TO FORM
25 AND LEGALITY:
26
27

28 _____
29 Kurt Lannon,
30 Clerk of the Commission

Marion J. Radson, City Attorney