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**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE # 4.1**


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**GOAL: # 4: GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

*Continue to increase the effectiveness of local government and maintain a strong fiscal condition*

INITIATIVE 4.1: CONTINUE ANNEXATION EFFORTS IN THE URBANIZED AREA IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND FINANCIAL DIVERSITY

**Champion:** Karen Billings, Strategic Planning Manager

**Sponsoring Commissioner:** Scherwin Henry, Commissioner (District I)

**Committee:** Community Development Committee

**Stakeholders:** Property-owners, Developers, Alachua County

**Desired Outcome:** Continued growth and diversity of properties within Gainesville's corporate limits.

**Background:** While annexation has always been a function of the City, City Commission increased the priority level of annexation activity and introduced it as an Initiative at the December, 2006 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 Joint City / County Orderly Annexation Team met regularly to develop strategies to improve and expand annexation efforts. In March 2008, the team presented a progress update at the Joint City/County Commission Meeting. The update included a background of the collaborative efforts between the City and County on annexation, the identification of 14 areas in Gainesville's Urban Reserve Area for further evaluation, and a proposal to survey residents in the 14 areas to better understand the residents' service delivery needs and interest in annexation.

**Supporting Documentation:**

- [Status Report: Plan for Orderly Annexations](#), March 2008
- [Annexation Transition Agreement](#), March 2007
- [Rusk Report](#), January 2007

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**Action Plan to Encourage Orderly Annexations for FYs 2009 – 2010**

Action Steps	Estimated Completion Date:
1. Complete a comparison between State Law and the Alachua County Boundary Adjustment Act (BAA) and make recommendations for BAA modifications to the City Commission and County-wide Visioning and Planning Committee	April 2008
2. Present City / County Orderly Annexation Team recommendations to the Joint Commissions	September 2008
3. Continue internal City team to support annexation efforts	On-going
4. Develop a plan for / investigate what incentives are available to encourage developed neighborhoods to annex	April 2009
5. Analyze the need to continue to annex, including the impact on redevelopment, land use/zoning, environmental issues, maximum annexation, and City Limit boundary	September 2009

**Critical Success Measures**

- Number of acres annexed into the City of Gainesville
- Percent increase in the geographic area of the City
- Percent increase in revenues as a result of annexation
- Percent of the urban reserve area that is incorporated