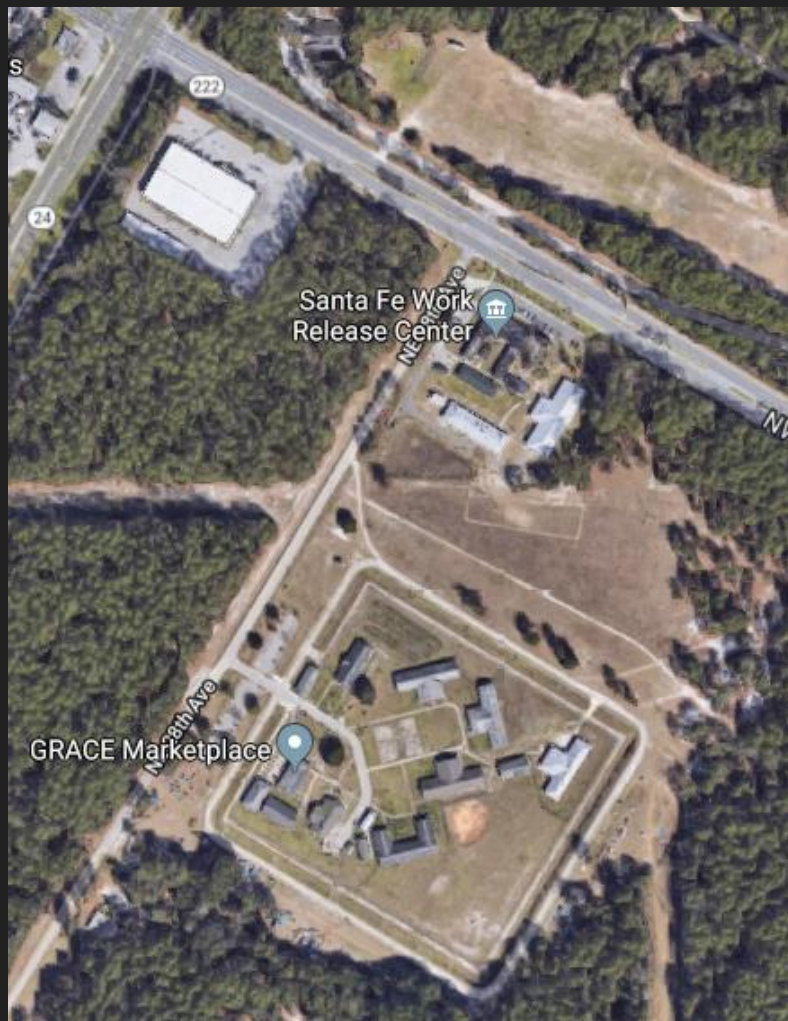
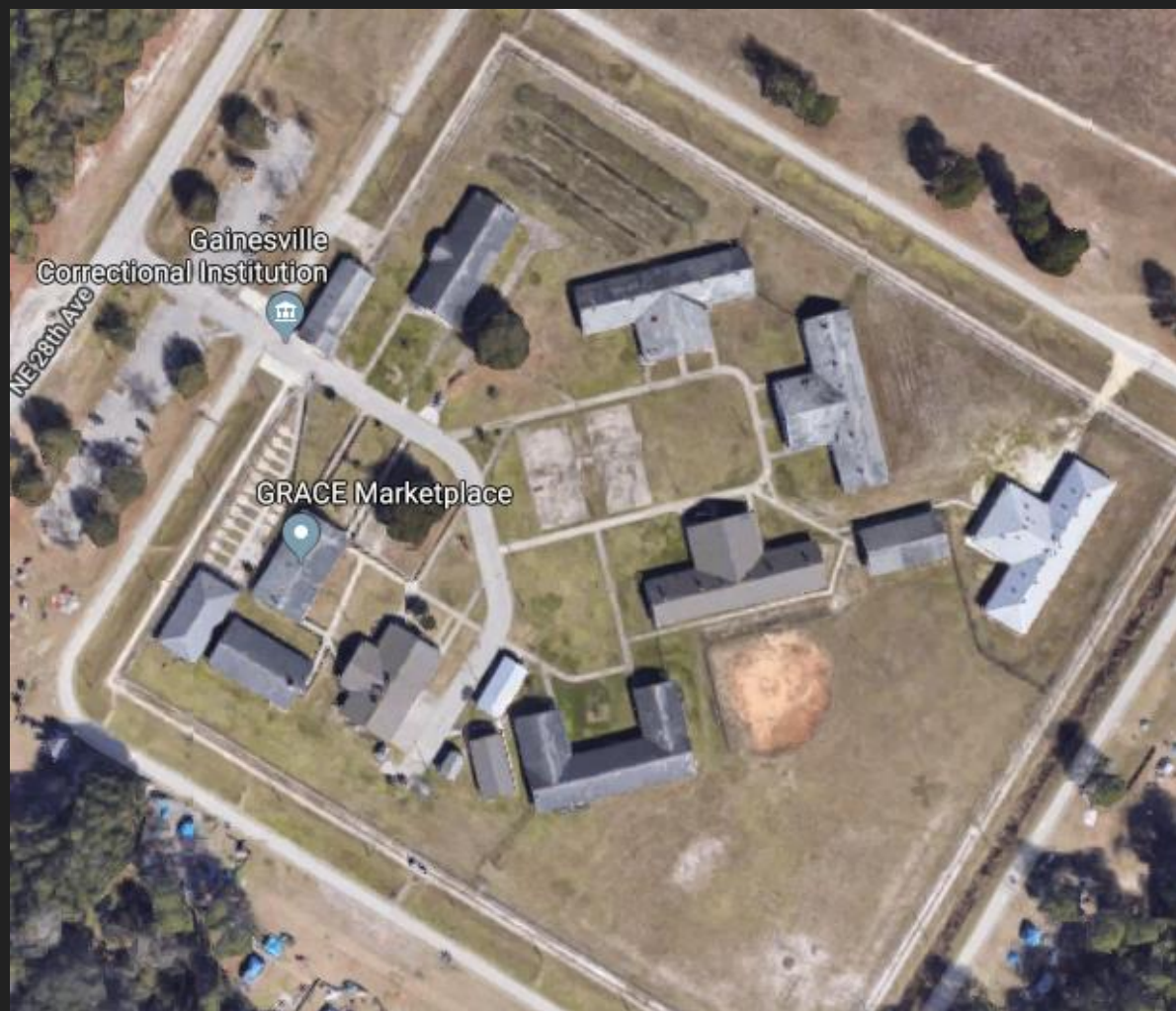


Thoughts on Homelessness/ Empowerment Center

11/13/18





GRACE Marketplace

- The City contracts with the ACCHH to manage GRACE as a low-barrier homeless shelter.
- As part of the contract the ACCHH has access to and manages several buildings.
- Remaining buildings are NOT part of the contract and have never been.
- Includes three meals a day, laundry facilities, bathroom facilities for anyone who has not been banned
- Includes sleeping arrangements for a subset of homeless residents who qualify and choose to stay.

Dignity Village

- “Outside the Fence” is managed by the City
- Originally designed and functions as an open tent-camping facility
- Most who reside in DV receive daily services at GRACE
- Living conditions, refuse, sanitation and order are markedly different at DV than GRACE.
- City currently assigns one FTE to manage DV.

Transportation and Outside Access

- A high percentage of residents at both GRACE and DV are disabled or otherwise mobility-challenged.
- The eastbound RTS stop is approximately a ¼ mile walk from the GRACE gate.
- The westbound RTS stop is about the same distance, but ACROSS NE 39th Ave without a marked or lit crosswalk.
- The closest convenience store is approximately a mile away.
- The ACCHH owns a van for transportation, but operation is prohibitively expensive because of liability insurance.

Health Care

- Residents of both GRACE and DV are in high need of health care.
- Because of mobility and other access issues, those health care needs are often met by ambulance and ER calls.

Overall Housing

- The ACCHH is doing an admirable job of moving residents into the next phase of housing.
- Housing available to the formerly homeless is extremely limited. Cost and geography are major problems.
- There is a need for transitional housing near the community and services already provided.

Potential Solutions

- Expand the Empowerment Center management contract to include the entire area - including other buildings inside the fence and DV. Remove city management except at the highest level of service.
- Complete the process of opening the medical facility inside GRACE.
- Renovate two existing structures inside the fence to become transitional housing/SROs. As many as 70 new housing units could be realized. These would be for fee and managed by either the ACCH or Gainesville Housing Authority, depending on how billing might most easily be managed. It may be necessary to build a separating fence from the low barrier shelter aspect.

Potential Solutions

- Open a store for basic needs onsite, inside the fence. This could be contracted or part of the ACCHH service. Vouchers could be available. It would keep residents from having to access “nearby” convenience stores.
- Place the existing ACCHH van under RTS management and add multiple daily routes to give residents access to off-site health care, shopping and jobs.