

### **Draft Resolution in Support of a Guaranteed Income**

WHEREAS: The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has impacted every American's life in one way or another, leading to a historic loss of jobs while also exposing pre-existing issues in local, state and federal economic systems; and

WHEREAS: Prior to the pandemic, nearly 40% of Americans could not afford a single \$400 emergency, and rising income inequality is compounded by an ever-growing racial wealth divide; and

WHEREAS: Research has shown a growing racial wealth gap, with the median white worker making 28% more on average than a Black worker, and 35% more than the median Latinx worker in the last quarter of 2019. The median wealth of white families is more than \$100,000 while the median wealth of black families is approximately \$10,000; and

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these wealth gaps across race and gender, disproportionately affecting people of color; and

WHEREAS: In order to address these inequalities, a coalition of Mayors across the country – from Oakland, CA to Gainesville, FL – have committed to advocating in favor of cash-based guaranteed income policies; and

WHEREAS: Gainesville has also signed onto the Mayor's for a Guaranteed Income Pledge and is actively working with community partners to pilot a universal basic income program in Gainesville in early 2021; and

WHEREAS: Ongoing, direct cash payments will put real money in the pockets of people across the country and increase spending in our communities; and

WHEREAS: These regular payments have shown to be more effective than unemployment benefits for families of color. The data show that another direct payment would increase Native American, Latinx/Hispanic, and Black family income by 4.1%, 3.9%, and 3.6% respectively, compared to 2% of household income for white families; and

WHEREAS: Providing an income floor that would support families during this economic and public health crisis will benefit those individuals receiving ongoing cash assistance and the community at large; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Gainesville City Commission go on record supporting the efforts of the Mayor's for a Guaranteed Income and supports ongoing, direct cash payments throughout the pandemic and until our economy recovers; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Gainesville City Commission urges President Biden, Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer to develop an ongoing federal guaranteed income that provides an income floor for all Americans.