RESOLUTION NO. 200736

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A Resolution of the City of Gainesville, supporting the efforts of the Mayor's for a Guaranteed Income and requesting Federal leaders to develop an ongoing guaranteed income at the Federal level and providing an immediate effective date.

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, disproportionally 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 cashbased 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA: That the City supports the efforts of the Mayor's for a Guaranteed Income and supports ongoing, direct cash payments throughout the pandemic and until our economy recovers; That the City urges President Biden, Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer to develop an ongoing federal guaranteed income that provides an income floor for all Americans. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption. **PASSED and ADOPTED** this 18th day of February 18, 2021. Lauren B. Poe, Mayor Attest: Approved as to form and legality: Nicolle M. Shalley City Attorney City Clerk