



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

19 SEP 11 PM 3:09

Charles S. Chestnut IV, *Chair*
Robert Hutchinson, *Vice Chair*
Mike Byerly
Ken Cornell
Marihelen Wheeler

Administration
Michele L. Lieberman
County Manager

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Mayor Lauren Poe
City of Gainesville Commission
200 E. University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mayor Poe,

At its September 10, 2019 meeting, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners discussed the County's role in ending homelessness. The Commissioners reaffirmed their commitment to Housing First and the need for the County to focus on social services including Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. As such, the County Commissioners are requesting that the City do likewise by reaffirming their commitment to Housing First. Additionally, the County Commissioners moved to increase their support of the GRACE Marketplace contract and Dignity Village closure to an amount totaling \$1,000,000 for FY20. The Commissioners further moved to develop an Interlocal Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Gainesville to provide for services and support towards ongoing efforts in FY21 and FY22.

The County Commission's commitment is contingent upon the City adding financial support towards the GRACE Marketplace contract for FY21. During that fiscal year, the County Commissioners will provide \$250,000 towards the GRACE Marketplace contract while funding of up to \$1,000,000 towards Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing, subject to annual appropriation. Likewise, the County Commission is requesting that the City increase its commitment to the GRACE Marketplace contract to \$1,250,000 in FY21 and \$1,500,000 in FY22. Ongoing, the County would be providing \$1,500,000 towards Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing, while the City would be funding \$1,500,000 towards GRACE Marketplace.

With respect to GRACE Marketplace and Dignity Village, Commissioners were in consensus agreement that we have achieved some success and there is clearer focus around the issue of homelessness. We also look forward to County and City Staff continuing to work together to move the initiative forward.

I look forward to an in-depth discussion of this plan at the September 23, 2019 Joint Alachua County/City of Gainesville Special Meeting.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr19.087

CSC/CT/cw

CC: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
Carl Smart, Assistant County Manager
Claudia Tuck, Director, Community Support Services

