

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT WORKSHOP WITH CITY OF GAINESVILLE

DATE: 2/17/2021

1. **Suggestions from University of Florida Student Representatives:**
 - Addressing traffic problems at the University of Florida to mitigate loss of human life. Recently University of Florida students passed away due to traffic road related issues
 - Transportation and security at the University of Florida needs to be revamped. Nearby apartments need additional crosswalks and stop signs
 - Elimination of zoning practices that hinder affordable housing.
 - Closure of Graduate Student Housing (348 units); an urgent need exists to align the City with the University of Florida housing initiatives
Feedback from the Mayor: The mayor will follow up with the University of Florida leadership to discuss the housing closure issue

2. **Suggestion on Food Access:**
 - Increasing healthy food access in Gainesville especially within food desert zones
Feedback from Commissioner Simmons: working with local farmers and partnering with convenient stores will make healthy food available and boost the Gainesville economy

3. **Suggestion on Broadband Connectivity:**
 - Affordable costs for broadband connectivity for residents and business in Gainesville. The current prices are too high for broadband
Feedback from Commissioner Simmons: 04/12/2021 @2:30 PM - A broadband utility meeting will be held to address access within Alachua County. US Congresswoman Kat Cammack has been invited to participate at this meeting

4. **Suggestion from Reichert House:**
 - Efforts are needed to improve the infrastructure development in the eastern side of Gainesville.
 - A need for entertainment services in the eastern side of Gainesville
 - Need for SE & NE substations
 - Electricity rates are a cost factor
Feedback from the Mayor: There is a transformational project, a cultural hub on 6th and Waldo, in this region; GRU can help on utility costs for certain neighbors
Feedback from Commissioner Simmons: East Gainesville has lagged for some time. There is a FedEx facility and an Amazon depot however factors like improved lighting and review of zoning laws are some of the incentives that will attract investors and businesses.

5. **Suggestions on Business Startups:**
 - Business boot camps are needed for individuals who want to start a business
Feedback from Commissioner Ward – The Gainesville Entrepreneurial Program (GEP) was a program that had been set up to address this need however it was discontinued due to COVID-19
Feedback from the Mayor: CEID Center - Santa Fe has programs for people who want to start businesses; these programs are geared towards all individuals in Gainesville
Feedback from one of the Commissioners: Equity and Diversity Inclusion - Mentorship once or twice a year is provided via STARTGNV for local entrepreneurs on how to initiate a business, how to advertise a business, how to grow a business, etc.

6. **Suggestion on Homelessness:**
 - Additional efforts are needed to reduce the number of homeless populations in Alachua - areas around University and 13th.
Feedback from the Mayor: - Individuals with a social work background will be employed to help assist with our homeless population.

7. **Suggestion from Gainesville High School Student Representative:**
 - Increase in meaningful afterschool programs
 - Increase in internet access
 - Student advisory council

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8. **Suggestion from Lincoln Middle School Student Representative:**
 - Request to have lectures in engaging activities for students
 - Additional safety in public schools – at least 2 police for security
 - Boosting sanitation in rest room areas for public schools

9. **Suggestions from Santa Fe College Student Representatives:**
 - Fixing the roads around Santa Fe – 83rd Street and 23rd
 - Provide opportunities for immigrants in Gainesville to help with assimilation and ease in the navigation of various services available in the City. Jacksonville has shown success with Lutheran Services Florida regarding its immigrant services; issues exist locally concerning culture shock, financial literacy, ESL, and non-familiarity with systems in place
 - Scholarship for international students as an idea

Feedback from the Mayor: he will personally follow-up regarding Welcoming America

10. **Suggestion from Westwood Middle School Representative:**
 - Students are in need for motivation to want to learn. Opportunities for experienced students to assist these students will be helpful

Feedback from the Mayor: The City is working to help with programs that can help students

11. **Suggestion from Howard Bishop Representative:**
 - Programming for STEM – e.g. Tallahassee had one available but does not appear to be much locally here

Feedback from the Mayor: students can work with their school guidance counselor to identify STEM fields that are a best fit

12. **Suggestion on Mental Health:**
 - A need to address mental health issues in Gainesville especially today due to COVID-19

Feedback from the Mayor: Gainesville Police Co-Respondents & CRP are two programs the City currently has in place – frequent users of 911 calls will be reviewed to assess for mental illnesses. Other entities such as Meridian Behavioral Health, University of Florida Shand's are all engaged in addressing mental health issues in the City

13. **Suggestion from Ft. Clark Middle School Representative:**
 - Infrastructure development – potholes near the school drop off area
 - Bill Gates' eco-friendly concrete could be considered for utilization
 - Increased enforcement of DUIs needed
 - Positive behavior for teenagers is important

Feedback from the Mayor: An application called MYGNV is available for download to report potholes in the City and he can let the County know about the school's pothole since it is in their jurisdiction

14. **Suggestion from Eastside High School Representative:**
 - Other paths to success - High school programs aimed at future teachers, health professions and other skills

15. **Suggestion from Buchholz High School Representative:**
 - Lack of youth sports programs in Gainesville and lack of funding for them, particularly in middle schools

16. **Suggestion on Job Training:**
 - What types of economic opportunities are available, specifically on the Eastside?

Feedback from the Mayor: Gainesville has a large federal Job Corps site that it is waiting on the disposal process for acquisition and possible partnership with other stakeholders