

A Steady Path Forward



City Operations Six Months in Review *March 2025*

City of
Gainesville

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Office of the City Manager

Economic Development

Explore opportunities for economic growth by:

- Researching and reviewing source materials, plans, and projects from previous economic development initiatives
- Reviewing existing funding streams to support potential projects
- Conducting interviews with external partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors to determine opportunities for strategic partnerships
- Developing a list of catalytic economic development projects for funding
- Formulating a strategy to fund these projects using a combination of partnerships, new funding opportunities, and existing sources
- Presenting these findings to the City Commission in late April 2025

A Very GNV Holiday Parade

Handled planning and logistics for the 2024 A Very GNV Holiday Parade

- Secured Shaquille O'Neal as grand marshal
- Supported by 30 community sponsors
- Featured approximately 110 parade units
- Brought an estimated 5,000 participants and spectators to downtown Gainesville

Event Leadership

Provided leadership in planning and logistics for several additional events:

- Oath of Office for GPD Chief Nelson Moya – Nov. 21
- Holiday Carolers in the Chamber – Dec. 20
- City Commission Swearing-In Ceremony – Jan. 6
- City Commission Retreat – Jan. 23
- Mayor's State of the City Address – Jan. 29

Workplace Stewardship Committee

Organized a Workplace Stewardship Committee and currently is examining feedback from the Organizational Health Survey completed in Fiscal Year 2024

Has created subcommittees to examine:

- The City's health insurance options
- The City's overall benefits package
- Held an Employee Awards Ceremony on Nov. 14, 2024
- Held an Employee Rally on March 14, 2025

Office of the City Manager: American Rescue Plan Act

American Rescue Plan Act funding in the amount of \$22,852,875.53 (70.5%) has been spent as of Mar. 19, 2025. Staff remains vigilant in overseeing full expenditures of all grants through December 31, 2026.

Office of the City Manager: Government Affairs and Community Relations

Community F.I.R.S.T.

- Attended regular Neighborhood meetings in the Community FIRST neighborhoods
- Assisted Community First Neighborhoods with various events
- Provided support to Impact GNV and Directors regarding meetings, events, etc.

City Events

- Organized the Dylan Roberts Crosswalk Dedication Ceremony – Oct. 2, 2024
- Co-initiated the Government Affairs and Community Relations Countywide Collaboration including the University of Florida, Santa Fe College and additional associated entities – Oct. 4, 2024
- Hosted over 100 Lincoln Middle School Civics Students for City Hall Tour – Oct. 4, 2024
- Assisted Impact GNV with implementation of Interrupters through the Willie Mae Stokes Foundation – Oct. 25 – Jan. 25
- Organized Town Hall Meeting with City Leadership and Faith Leaders – Oct. 30, 2024
- Assisted with coordination of the Phoenix Gainesville Police Department Trunk or Treat Event – Oct. 30, 2024
- Coordinated City Resources for Empowerment Sunday (Souls to the Polls) – Nov. 3, 2024
- Assisted with the Public Workshop for NE 8th & Waldo and Citizens Field – Nov. 18, 2024
- Co-sponsored and coordinated resources for Strike Out Hunger Event – Nov. 21, 2024
- Assisted with A Very GNV Holiday Parade – Dec. 7, 2024
- Co-facilitated Celebrating Peace Event with Impact GNV – Dec. 14, 2024
- Coordinated Holy Trinity Episcopal School Caroling – Dec. 18, 2024
- Co-sponsored and coordinated resources for MLK Mickle Jazz Concert – Jan. 17, 2025
- Co-sponsored and coordinated resources for MLK Hall of Fame Enshrinement – Jan. 20, 2025
- Co-sponsored and coordinated resources for MLK Holiday Parade – Jan. 20, 2025
- Co-sponsored and coordinated resources for MLK National Holiday Celebration – Jan. 17, 2025
- Co-organized the Rosa Parks Day Celebration – Feb. 4, 2025
- Initiated the United Way Campaign for the City of Gainesville – Feb. 10, 2025
- Assisted with the NE 8th & Waldo and Citizens Field Revitalization Project Workshop – Feb. 18, 2025

Community Events

- Tabled at the Santa Fe College Sustainability Event – Oct. 16, 2024
- Impact Duval Community Health Day – Oct. 26, 2024
- MLK Commission 40th Annual Hall of Fame GALA – Jan. 11, 2025

- MLK Commission Who's In The Box Performance – Jan. 18, 2025
- 100 Black Men Swearing-in Ceremony – Jan. 25, 2025
- Gainesville High School Black History Month Guest Speaker – Feb. 7, 2025
- Housing For Children First Committee Meeting – Feb. 13, 2025

Neighborhood and Organizational Meetings

- Creekside Villas
- Kirkwood
- 5th Avenue
- University Park Neighborhood Association
- Ridgeview
- Porters Quarters
- Duval
- Black on Black Crime Task Force
- Community Gun Violence Prevention Alliance

Legislative Affairs

- Performed research, communications and reports on new federal executive orders, DOGE and other changes that could affect City grants and programs
- Coordinated individual meetings with the Clerk's Office for new state lobbyist visit and Mayor and Commissioners (Oct. 30, 2024) and GPC approval of 2025 state legislative priorities (Nov. 14, 2024)
- Attended annual FLC Legislative Conference in Orlando (Dec. 5 – 6, 2024) and annual UF Legislative lunch (Jan. 10, 2025)
- Crafted five local project requests totaling \$4,230,500 and worked with state lobbyists on securing appropriate sponsors for each in both respective legislative chambers; produced one-page summaries
- Drafted mayoral remarks, participated in strategy sessions, and gathered information for representation at annual state delegation meeting (Jan. 9, 2025)
- Coordinated Tallahassee trip with state lobbyists and attended various legislative meetings with Mayor during pre-session week (Jan. 14, 2025)
- Organized multiple meetings and communications of various GG and legal staff to examine possibilities for new housing glitch legislation
- Identified and provided narrative integration/revision support for COO, PRCA and GFR staff on the Bloomberg Global Mayors Challenge \$1M grant regarding expansion of ONOP programming
- Secured letters of support from U.S. Rep. Cammack on USDOT RAISE and FEMA AFG grants (with U.S. Sen. Scott support on latter) totaling approximately \$938,000
- Coordinated individual meetings with the Clerk's Office for federal lobbyist visit and Mayor/Commissioners (Feb. 18, 2025) and revised priority list to better reflect new areas of concern for Commission approval of 2025 state legislative priorities (March 6, 2025)
- Hosted regional directors with U.S. Sen. Rubio (Nov. 21, 2024) and U.S. Sen. Scott (Feb. 21, 2025)

- Provided supportive information for Commissioner Book and hands-free resolution with new state^{2025-264B} legislation for Commission meeting (Feb. 20, 2025)
- Engaged with HUD Choice Neighborhood task force addressing strategies, planning, and liaising other needs for the grant program
- Coordinated and hosted multiple meetings and reviews with Procurement, OEI, and City Attorney regarding Small Business (historically underutilized) policy and disparity study findings to address needs and gaps
- Offered weekly grant monitoring support to GG departments for consideration of new funding opportunities – federal, state, and other organizations
- Tracked and reported back on GRUA, BOCC, SBAC, CTAC and MTPO meeting items that could affect the City
- Offered relevant and time-sensitive information and feedback on miscellaneous bills of interest and concern for DSD, Finance, and Public Works

Office of the City Manager: Office of Resilience

- Launched internal education efforts:
 - Zero Waste campaign, introducing organic waste collection at work
- Led external education efforts:
 - Held monthly community workshops and site tours aligned with the Resiliency Plan
 - Focused on energy in Jan. (visited biomass plant)
 - Focused on water in Feb. (visited Kanapaha Wastewater Facility and Sweetwater Wetlands Park)
 - Focused on waste in March (visit planned for the city’s waste facility)
 - Conducted a workshop at a local Israeli school engaged participants from as young as two years old—our youngest involvement yet—to seniors, featuring a presentation and a tree-planting activity
 - Recruited faculty and students at UF to play an active role in implementation efforts, contributing through guest lectures and collaborative projects
 - Presented Gainesville’s resilience efforts to peer cities four times in February
 - Hosted delegations from Miami-Dade County, Jacksonville, Orange County, and Washington, D.C.
- Completed the Vulnerability Assessment
- Submitted LEED for Cities application on Jan. 31 – Staff are addressing preliminary feedback
- Employee Commute Survey – Data collection is finalized; to be presented to the City Commission on April 3
- Citywide Emissions Analysis – Data Collection is finalized; to be presented to the City Commission on April 3

Communications & Marketing

Events

- Celebrate City Government Day – Oct. 23
- Key to the City (support) – Oct. 24 to Hot Water Music
- Key to the City (support) – Nov. 2 to Willy Chirino
- Downtown Festival and Art Show (support) – Nov. 9 and 10

- Employee Awards Ceremony (support) – Nov. 14
- Oath of Office for GPD Chief Nelson Moya – Nov. 21
- Employee Service Recognition Awards (support) – Nov. 21 and Feb. 20
- Sine Die – Dec. 5
- A Very GNV Holiday Parade – Dec. 7
- Holiday Carolers in the Chamber (support) – Dec. 20
- City Commission Swearing-In Ceremony – Jan. 6
- Alachua County’s 200th Birthday Celebration – Jan. 11
- City Commission Retreat – Jan. 23
- Hoggetowne Medieval Faire (support) – Jan. 25 and 26
- Mayor’s State of the City – Jan. 29
- Communications Tour for UF Students – Jan. 31
- Communications Tour for Emerging Leaders – Feb. 19
- Summer Blitz – March 1
- Employee Rally – March 14

Community Relations

- Summer Blitz – March 1
 - Recruited programs, organizations, and local businesses to participate, ensuring a diverse range of resources were available for youth and parents
 - Coordinated outreach efforts and engagement, distributing event information to neighbors, businesses, and faith-based organizations to maximize community awareness and participation
 - Assisted with the logistical coordination of the event space, ensuring a smooth and organized experience for attendees and vendors
 - To enhance future events, scheduled and facilitated a debriefing session
 - Helped create an inclusive and impactful event that connected families with essential services, educational programs, and enrichment opportunities
- IMPACT GNV
 - Actively working with IMPACT GNV to organize and finalize plans for the upcoming youth Informational Fair, scheduled for June 2025
 - Handling outreach efforts, distribution of event information to local schools, neighbors, businesses and faith-based organizations to drive community engagement and maximize attendance
 - Assisting with logistical coordination to ensure a seamless event experience for vendors, participants, and guests
- Community F.I.R.S.T.
 - Fostering strong relationships between the community, local organizations, and neighbors
 - Engaging with businesses, nonprofits, and residents to promote community initiatives, encourage participation, and connect individuals with valuable resources and services

- Organizing outreach efforts, ongoing distribution of essential information of upcoming and ongoing events that align with the mission of Community F.I.R.S.T.
- Attending community meetings and events to gain insight into the unique needs of different neighborhoods
- Working to identify how the City of Gainesville can better serve these areas based on their individual needs

Creative Services

- 23 GNV News e-newsletters and 64 email updates (external)
 - Worked with Impact GNV to create quarterly e-newsletter
- 185 internal emails, including Inside GNV e-newsletters, GNV News Wraps and other emails (internal)
- Achieved a social media reach of:
 - Views: 1,966,519
 - Reach: 569,152
- Received 1,751,556 views on the City website
- Social Media Campaigns:
 - Hurricane Preparedness and Response – Hurricanes Helene and Milton
 - Hispanic Heritage Month
 - A Very GNV Holiday Parade
 - One Nation One Project – Apollo Theater and post-project reporting
 - Winter Storm Enzo
 - Black History Month
 - Gun Violence Awareness Month (June – planning in progress)
- Print and Digital Collateral Produced:
 - Downtown Festival and Art Show (map, signage, graphics, digital communications)
 - A Very GNV Holiday Parade (booklet, banners, signage, t-shirts, website, advertising)
 - State of the City (booklet, banners, digital communications)
 - RTS Mobility on Demand (rack cards, digital communications)
 - Employee Rally (signage, digital communications)
 - PRCA Seasonal Guide (Fall and Spring editions – print and digital)
 - Climate Action Plan (branding and formatting – print and digital)
 - Designed Impact GNV logo in coordination with that team
- Facilities Improvements – City Hall Lobby Display
- Website Updates
 - Phase 1 of ADA Accessibility Improvements
 - Migration to main City website:
 - PRCA independent pages
 - GCRA webpage

- Provided more than 20 hours of document translation
 - Improved the City’s bilingual digital presence
 - Provided translation services across departments
 - Provided translation during hurricane activations
- Monthly meetings of the Communications Advisory Group
- Support of United Way Campaign
- Helped promote more than 150 City programs, events, meetings and initiatives

Broadcast

- First Quarter Metrics – Meeting Broadcasts and Livestreams
 - 45.58 hours of live meeting broadcasts
 - 370.65 hours of replayed meeting broadcasts
 - 4,227 Facebook Live meeting stream views
 - 5,952 City website meeting stream views
- 17 New video productions on Channel 12
 - GNV On The Move – Episode 4 – Commissioner Saco (48 runs)
 - GNV On The Move – Episode 5 – Commissioner Duncan-Walker (47 runs and continuing)
 - GNV On The Move – Episode 6 – Commissioner Book (33 runs and continuing)
 - GNV On The Move – Episode 7 – State of the City (28 runs and continuing)
 - GNV On The Move – Episode 8 – Commissioner Willits (11 runs and continuing)
 - A Very GNV Holiday Parade - entire coverage (19 runs)
 - A Very GNV Holiday Parade Preview (47 runs)
 - A Very GNV Holiday Parade PSA (35 runs)
 - A Very GNV Holiday Parade Shaq Promo PSA (17 runs)
 - Cane Boil & Fiddle Fest PSA (33 runs)
 - City Government Day TV 12 promo (80 runs)
 - Downtown Festival & Art Show Preview (48 runs)
 - Downtown Festival & Art Show PSA (47 runs)
 - Dylan Roberts Crosswalk Ceremony (29 runs)
 - Indigenous People’s Day Ceremony (10 runs)
 - Meet Your Community Builders: Matt Buszko (48 runs)
 - Morningside Nature Center Overview (33 runs)
- Four “City Manager Shout Out” videos for internal communication channels
- Replacement of timer in City Commission Chamber

News Releases, Information and Media Relations

- 76 news releases distributed

- 20 Mayor's Media Open Doors
- 306 media requests
- 7 corrected media reports
- 7 City of Gainesville statements to the media
- Upcoming City Events List – provided for each City Commission agenda

Financial Services

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

- On schedule to present the Fiscal year 2024 ACFR with a clean audit opinion to the Audit Committee on March 25 and the City Commission on March 27

Workday Stabilization

- Phase 2 nearing completion
- Deploying 56 stabilization requirements into production with consultant support
- Conducting 24 knowledge transfer meetings to train and support City staff

Financial Management & Reconciliations

- Routinely closed the general ledger monthly by the 20th of the following month, ensuring timely financial reporting
- Issued 1,588 customer invoices totaling \$42.0 million in receivables
- Processed over 8,815 payables invoices, resulting in \$47 million in payments
- Completed over 2,797 ad hoc bank transactions and reconciled 5,262 bank transactions
- Processed 12 biweekly payroll cycles for \$80 million in gross pay
- Processed 5 monthly retiree pay cycles for \$29 million in gross distribution
- Oversaw investment performance and managed \$1.44 billion in assets for the City's Operating Funds, General Employees' Pension Plan, Police Officers & Firefighters' Pension Plan and Retiree Health Insurance Trust/OPEB

Strengthening Internal Controls

- Assisted the City Manager in addressing corrective action plans for RTS, Ironwood and Procurement Management Watch
- Worked with the City Manager, DFS, WSPP, Ironwood, RTS and the Clerk to develop, review and update operational procedure
- Assisted GPD management in controlling and recording the expenditure of Federal and State forfeited funds

2025 GFOA Award

- In February 2025 Gainesville received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 37th time, making our city second in the state for the number of awards received

Gainesville Fire Rescue

- On November 1, 2024, Fire Chief Joe Dixon handed over the reins to Interim Chief Shawn Hillhouse

New 24/72 Schedule

- The implementation of the firefighters' new 24/72 schedule has put Gainesville in the spotlight for the past several months relative to improved recruitment
 - Agencies across the United States are reaching out to learn more about its benefits
 - Gainesville Firefighters are involved with Florida State University researchers studying the overall health of firefighters working different schedules

Department Statistics

- From October 2024 – February 2025:
- GFR responded to 10,065 calls for service
- 725 Alarms
- 7,392 Medical Incidents
- 1,387 Fire Incidents
- 148 Hazmat
- 413 Service Calls.

Emergency Management Metrics

- Created six Incident Action Plans (IAP)
- Coordinated and reviewed 51 special events plans
- Staffed 21 special events
- Received one Sentinel Event Notification

Staffing Initiatives

- Orientation class 25-1 began on February 10, 2025
- Added five certified firefighters, including three veterans
- Enrolled 10 candidates through the Brothers in Action Collaboration funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Four expected to complete as certified Firefighter II/EMT by May
- One has been offered a job with GFR; bringing total hired from the noncertified program by GFR to three

Community Health Division

- Fully staffed in all areas by end of February 2025

Community Resource Paramedicine Program

From October – December 2024:

- Handled 85 new referrals

- Completed 495 patient contacts/attempts
- Provided 167 hours of direct patient care
- Conducted 11 home vaccinations
- Hosted 16 community engagement events
- Held six professional development sessions
- Additional efforts:
 - Staffing the Hurricane Milton Shelter
 - Participation in the Meridian Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
 - Engagement in webinars for the Florida Rural Health Association

IMPACT GNV

- Contracted with Santa Fe College to secure off-site office space for IMPACT GNV and the BOLD program that provides easy access to the community
- IMPACT GNV welcomed new staff members and promoted community engagement
- Achieved a 53% open rate for its quarterly newsletter
- The BOLD program served 28 clients in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025

Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety

- The Gun Violence Prevention Alliance held six meetings discussing Children’s Trust of Alachua County initiatives, including a countywide strategic plan led by GFR, county grant funding opportunities, the Youth Steering Committee and stakeholder updates
- Community Safety Day offered training in crisis intervention and Narcan administration
- Collaboration with local services provided trauma-informed outreach after incidents of gun violence
- GFR facilitated the search for a vendor to create the Gun Violence Prevention Alliance Strategic Plan

Community Health Initiatives

- One Nation One Project GNV
- Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
- “Healthy Afternoons with Fire Rescue”

Community F.I.R.S.T. Initiative

- Aimed at creating a mobile City Hall concept, Community F.I.R.S.T. enhances direct access and trust with historically disenfranchised neighborhoods: Phoenix, Greater Duval, Porters Quarters, Pineridge, University Park, Sugarhill and Pleasant Street
- IMPACT GNV released the “blueprint” department heads will use to:
 - Act as liaisons
 - Address neighborhood concerns
 - Promote consistent community presence and engagement

Public Education

First Quarter Statistics:

- 58 engagements and initiatives
- Reaching approximately 3,000 people throughout Gainesville

Risk Reduction Bureau

- Chief David Sutton was appointed Fire Marshal overseeing GFR's Risk Reduction Bureau (RRB)
- RRB saw significant attrition with the retirement of Chief Hesson, Investigator DeRasmo, and Inspector Gutierrez
- Promoted two investigators and onboarded two inspectors
- RRB is working on the outstanding findings from the RRB Audit
 - Fully completed two of the six findings
- To gather best practices in building a Fire Investigations program, met with:
 - Gainesville Police Department
 - State Fire Marshal's Office
 - State Attorney's Office
 - Bureaus of other fire departments

Strategic Plan

- In late 2024, the department engaged in an updated Strategic Planning process with neighbors and stakeholders
- The newest Five-Year Strategic Plan is expected in Spring 2025

Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area

Business Improvement Grant Program (BIGP)

- In November 2024, the Gainesville City Commission approved a revised version of BIGP
 - GCRA received eight completed applications on February 18, 2025
 - Downtown Advisory Board (DAB) determined funding distribution

Downtown Events Grant Program

- GCRA Evaluation Committee reviewed eight applications on February 18, 2025
 - Awarded \$30,000 funding based on eligibility
- Revised Downtown Events Grant Program presented on March 6, 2024
 - GCRA has \$100,000 designated for implementation

Downtown Ambassador Program

Ambassador Statistics (December 2024 – January 2025)

- Supporting the Unhoused Community
 - Engaged with 114 unhoused individuals
 - Secured housing for 15 of those assisted

- Helped 106 individuals obtain essential documents
 - Made 35 referrals to the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Cleaning and Maintenance
 - Removed 780 painted graffiti and stickers
 - Collected 119 bags of trash
- Business and Public Safety Assistance
 - Conducted 563 safety interactions with businesses
 - Handled 152 service calls related to assisting unhoused individuals in need
- Community Assistance and Emergency Response
 - Provided 102 automobile assists (such as jump-starts and lockout help)
 - Made 17 emergency calls offering immediate assistance and coordination with first responders

Community Partnership Grant

Events funded through previous grant cycles are happening from February 1 – April 30

- Slick Garden Corp. – Farmers Market at Porters Quarters
- Neighborhood Housing & Development – Family Empowerment Workshop
- Florida Community Innovation – Gentrification Community Dialogue
- Maypop Coop – Disaster Relief Skill Share
- Greater Duval Association – Community Garden Upgrade

Cornerstone Food Truck Initiative

- Over the first six weeks of operation, five food trucks participated in a rotational system

Gainesville Teaching and Entrepreneurial Community Center (GTEC Center)

- Currently supports the economic growth of 18 small and local entrepreneurs
- Finalizing construction refresh with Walker Architects

Heartwood Neighborhood

- Hosted a successful first annual Heartwood Neighborhood Open House and Block Party
- Sold Lot 32 on February 28, 2025
- Lot 31 is under contract
- Lot 33 is under contract
- Current status:
 - 11 Dreams to Reality Homes
 - 7 market rate homes
 - 16 remaining lots to be sold
 - 34 original total lots

Porters Quarters Neighborhood Improvements

A survey identified the following projects:

- Fence replacement
 - Removal and replacement expected by early April 2025
- Pink House redesign for community use
 - Expected to begin construction by September 2025
- Lighting enhancements
 - Completed expected by end of 2025
- Home design(s) for the infill lot in Porters Quarters
 - Groundbreaking expected in 2025

Heritage Trail

- On October 16, 2024 participants in a Community Committee Heritage Trail Tour identified potential sites for historical markers, including gateway markers that would serve as prominent entry points
- In March 2025 further community input was gathered

8th and Waldo – Citizens Field Transformational Project

- On October 25, 2024, an internal stakeholder meeting was held with City staff, the NV5 team and Alachua County School Board members
- Community engagement followed in November 2024 and February 2025
- The Preliminary Site Plan has been developed along with planned infrastructure improvements
- On March 12, the future of Citizens Field was discussed with City leaders present at a School Board of Alachua County (SBAC) meeting
- On March 13, the future of Citizens Field and the Transformational Project were discussed with SBAC leaders present at a General Policy Committee meeting of the City Commission

Eastside Health and Economic Development Initiative (EHEDI)

- The roadway to connect Hawthorne Rd to SE 8th Ave is scheduled for completion by June 2025
- RTS transfer station design and construction permitting is currently underway; construction is slated to begin in December of 2025

Housing & Community Development*

America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- Neighborhood Housing & Development Corporation (NHDC) has completed construction and sold four single-family homes to income eligible homebuyers
- One additional home is under construction
- Hutchinson Foundation has commenced construction on Jessie’s Village to build 22 units in Southeast Gainesville; groundbreaking was held March 11
 - The City provided support through: American Rescue Plan Act-ARPA (\$280,000); Home Investment Partnership-HOME (\$97,000); Community Development Block Grant (\$47,000); and ConnectFree Program (\$87,700)

- Gainesville Housing Authority & Newstar Development: Woodland Park Phase II is finalizing the project financing with a financial closing scheduled for late spring
 - The Tenant Relocation Plan has been approved by HUD
 - GHA has begun relocating tenants
- Bright Community Trust (BCT) completed construction and sold one single-family home in the City’s land trust
 - Three additional units are under construction
 - Under the original agreement, the City provided BCT with \$1 million in ARPA funding and 10 lots previously owned by the City to construct 10 affordable housing units

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Investment Partnership (HOME)

- HUD allocated \$1,386,148 in CDBG and \$548,431 in HOME funding to support the City Housing Programs and provide support to outside agencies
- The City awarded 14 outside agencies with CDBG funding and four outside agencies with HOME funding
- Staff worked with HUD to expand our offering under the CDBG program to include neighborhood improvements

HOME-ARP

- Under the HOME-ARP program, the HCD and the Department of Sustainable Development have collaborated to redevelop five city owned lots which will be used as a model to encourage the development of more affordable Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
 - Each parcel will contain a primary single-family unit and up to two Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
 - The first site bid was awarded to a general contractor earlier this year
 - Staff has begun the process of planning a groundbreaking ceremony

State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP)

- The City received \$1.6 million in SHIP funding to support owner-occupied home rehabilitation, mortgage foreclosure intervention assistance, down payment assistance and developer’s subsidies to produce affordable housing
 - As a part of the \$1.6M Affordable Housing Developers Subsidy set-aside, \$600K was from the SHIP allocation

ConnectFree

- Royal Park Apartments received \$250,000 in support through the ConnectFree program
- Several other projects have been approved for funding:
 - Jessie’s Village
 - Hawthorne Heights
 - East University Cottages
- In the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025, the program funded two owner-occupied projects and two single-family affordable housing projects totaling \$30,870

General Fund

- The City Commission approved a \$1.4 million set-aside for affordable housing:
 - \$1 million to subsidize the development of affordable housing
 - \$400K to support the ADU pilot program
- The Notice of Funding Availability resulted in 21 applications
 - Eight were either incomplete or ineligible
 - Staff and the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) are reviewing
 - Recommendations will be presented the City Commission for final approval
- In addition to processing GRACE monthly invoices, there are two outside agencies funded through the General Fund:
 - Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County (\$65,000)
 - St. Francis House, Inc. (\$30,000)

Total Investment

Total investment for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 (\$1,185,594):

- Down Payment Assistance \$110,000
- Homeowner Rehabilitation \$399,981
- Housing Replacement \$133,177
- Roof Replacement \$10,200
- Mortgage Foreclosure Intervention \$22,500
- ConnectFree (individual) \$30,870
- ConnectFree (RPA) \$250,000
- Outside agency support \$228,866

*Bright Community Trust Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony (Spring TBD); Gainesville Housing Authority – Woodland Park II Groundbreaking Ceremony (Spring TBD); and Accessory Dwelling Unit Project Groundbreaking (April TBD)

Human Resources

- Processed over 700 employment applications for 119 new hires
 - Approximately 1/3 of those were internal promotions, with an average of 52 days to fill a position
- Over 2,400 training courses completed
- Turnaround times for Classification and Compensation requests have improved, reducing job audits from 90 days to 60 days maximum
- Continued work with the Workplace Stewardship Committee – held a professional development retreat and coordinated the Employee Rally
- Continued negotiations with ATU and CWA
- The Emerging Leaders program is in its final semester
 - The students are working on their capstone project

- They are touring City and GRU departments
- On track to graduate summer 2025
- Ongoing participation in Workday stabilization project to optimize the system and improve efficiency, with 20+ HR requirements already successfully deployed in the system
- Serve as a partner to GRU leadership and actively guide the start of transition of shared HR functions to a GRU HR department (constitutes approximately 30-40% of our workload)

Office of Management & Budget

- Following the successful completion of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget process, Executive Chief of Staff Cintya Ramos led the OMB staff in analyzing likely revenue changes for Fiscal Year 2026
- OMB has held meetings with individual departments to compare budgets vs. actuals and plan for Fiscal Year 2026 adjustments

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

PRCA Seasonal Guide

- Worked with Communications to produce the second issue of the Seasonal Guide
 - Allows front-end customer service staff to communicate better with neighbors
 - Helps neighbors to get a comprehensive view of programs offered

Events

- 20,640 attendees at City-sponsored or produced events at Bo Diddley Plaza
- 35,000 attendees at the Downtown Festival and Art Show
- 50,000 attendees at the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire at Depot Park

Youth Services + Education Programs

- In Fiscal Year 2025 to date, programs have been completed at all City of Gainesville afterschool sites:
 - YMCA Teen Center
 - Residences at Oakview Apartments
 - Monthly YMCA Teen Level Up Nights
- Enrollment for Spring Break Camp reached full capacity for both Albert Ray Massey and Eastside Community Center

Youth Steering Committee

- Revamped its recruitment and representation strategies
- A new co-facilitator was brought onboard, funded by the Children's Trust of Alachua County
- Has held youth-led interviews with new applicants
- Added new members from Eastside High School, Project Youthbuild, Santa Fe College Adult Education and PACE Center for Girls

Recreation Operations

- Enrolled 155 in Youth Basketball
 - 8 out of 16 teams won their bracket championships
- Enrolled 107 in Pop Warner Football and Cheer
- 352 athletes participated in the adult softball program
- Approximately 20,000 visitors at the aquatic facilities
- More than 13,000 rounds of golf played at Ironwood Golf Course
 - The new concessionaire has begun operations

Park Operations

- Provided 17,122 hours of park maintenance
- Removed 58 tons of trash and 1,111 cubic yards of debris
- Targeted 8 acres for invasive plant removal
- Treated 39 acres with prescribed burns
- Logged 204,996 users on the City's nature trails

Gainesville Police Department

Gun Violence Prevention

GPD has a dedicated Gun Violence Unit for combating violent crime. In Fiscal Year 2025 to date, the City saw overall reductions in the following compared to the previous six months:

- The incidents of stolen firearms reduced from 57 to 43 (down 24%)
- The incidents of shots fired reduced from 140 to 78 (down 44%)
- The incidents of persons shot reduced from 23 to 6 (down 73%)
- The incidents of homicides remained reduced from 2 to 0 (200% down)

In Fiscal Year 2025 to date, proactive efforts resulted in firearms seized and arrests of convicted felons in possession of firearms:

- 83 firearms seized or recovered by law enforcement
- 13 stolen firearms seized or recovered by law enforcement
- 14 arrests of convicted felons found in possession of a firearm
- 1 arrest of an adjudicated delinquent juveniles found in possession of a firearm

Traffic Safety and Vision Zero

In Fiscal Year 2025 to date, the traffic safety team has:

- Completed 21 educational events in the community
- Assisted with several motorcycle escorts
- Participated in four (4) parades
- Received approximately \$121,000.00 from FDOT grants (Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, Occupant Protection, and Motorcycle & Scooter Safety) and IPTM Bicycle and Pedestrian Contract

Homelessness Support

- Four Co-Responder teams responded to 1,025 calls for service through Fiscal Year 2025 to date
- During the same period, the teams completed:
 - 51 Baker Act Diversions
 - 22 Jail Diversions
 - 18 Emergency Room Diversions

Recruitment

- Starting pay raised to \$60,000 to stay competitive
 - In the 2024 calendar year, the department hired 31 individuals in comparison to 22 individuals in the previous year, a 41% increase
 - In the 2024 calendar year, GPD received 457 applications in comparison to 201 applications in the previous year, a 127% increase
 - In Fiscal Year 2025 to date, GPD has received 193 applications for police officer positions

Community Engagement

- GPD currently has 48 active Neighborhood Crime Watch groups

Community F.I.R.S.T.

- The Phoenix neighborhood is GPD's assigned neighborhood for Community F.I.R.S.T.
- The department has hosted multiple events
- The neighborhood has a community center where the Police Athletic League utilizes the space for mentoring and tutoring students
- The continued use of this space is under review

Public Works

- Completed sidewalk construction:
 - SE 4th Place (S Main to SE 1st St)
 - NE 15th St (NE 12th Ave to NE 16th Ave)
 - NW 2nd St (NW 9th Ave to NW 14th Ave)
- Completed approximately 25 miles of pavement management work
 - Rejuvenator, surface treatments and milling and resurfacing
- Commenced construction:
 - NW 42nd Ave sidewalk (NW 13th St to NW 6th St)
 - NW 8th Ave/NW 6th St Vision Zero improvements
 - NW 8th Ave resurfacing (Newberry Rd to NW 40th Dr)
 - NW 1st St/NW 1st Ave Unit Block Reconstruction Project
 - N Main St at NW 4th Ave Midblock Crossing Project
- Finalized the design phase:
 - SW 6th St Vision Zero improvements (Depot Ave to SW 16th Ave)

- NE 8th Ave curb ramp replacement (NE 9th St to Waldo Rd)
- Commenced the design phase:
 - NW 31st Drive sidewalk (Westwood Middle School)
 - NE 9th St Streets, Stations and Strong Foundations (SSSF) and Cedar Grove Drainage Remediation (University Ave to NE 23rd Ave)
- Completed Stormwater Management Fee Utility sufficiency study
- Completed the Stormwater Vulnerability Assessment
- Purchased 6.8 acres of Urban Forestry Conservation
- Updated Solid Waste Fees
- Completed the Lot 4 Dumpster Enclosure
- Drafted the Curbside Solid Waste Invitation to Negotiate
- Commenced educational efforts for Re-Use Planning and Food Waste components of the Zero Waste Ordinance

Risk Management

Benefits Division

- Benefits Division completed the education and integration of the second health plan option into the City's Annual Open Enrollment in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025
 - Less than 85 community builders enrolled in the lower cost option
 - Over time, more community builders may consider the lower cost option
- Benefits Team added a quarterly utilization deep dive to evaluate the health benefit
- Benefits Team is working with the Workplace Stewardship Committee to better understand member needs in terms of benefits and educational opportunities

Employee Health Services

- Employee Health Services (EHS) changed direction to focus on non-occupational contacts with community builders
- Nurse Practitioner participates in new employee orientation
 - Led to overall community builder contacts increasing by 15% and 20% in January and February of 2025 as compared to the same months in 2024
 - More community builders are seeing the value added benefit of having the onsite health clinic

Wellness Division

- Launched "12 Days of Wellness" in December
- Both the Step Challenge and Lighten Up programs remain popular

Worker's Compensation

- The City continued to be a leader amongst its peer group with respect to its Worker's Compensation Modification factor

- The factor is holding at .70 (30% below our peers)
 - This is accomplished through actively managing an injured employee's claim to ensure access to care and a successful return to a normal life and work schedule and life

Safety and Loss Control

- Annual Safety Awards program occurred in November
- Safety Awards were given to nearly 100 community builders

Streets, Stations and Strong Foundations

- The Catalyst Building has been renovated and is now the home of GFR Administration
- Additional land was purchased around the Catalyst Building for parking and site expansion
- The final cross section was approved for NE 9th Street and final construction plans are being completed
- Staff is working on a letter of intent and acquisition of the site for the SW Public Safety Center including GFR Station #9
- Design plans continue for the Gainesville Police Department Property & Evidence Building and the Public Works Hurricane Hardened Building

Department of Sustainable Development

Comprehensive Plan

- Revising the Comprehensive Plan draft to a more traditional format
- A re-drafted chapter will be presented to the City Commission in early to mid-2025 with a complete re-draft by August 2025
- DSD staff have continued to coordinate closely with the Office of Equity and Inclusion to inform and assist their development of an equitable development framework

Inclusionary Zoning and Lot-Size Reform

- Developing implementation procedures associated with Inclusionary Zoning and Single Family Lot-Size Reform in collaboration with other departments, property owners and stakeholders
 - Numerous changes in State Statute, both adopted and proposed, have demanded significant alterations to development review processes and procedures
 - DSD will begin providing quarterly updates to the Commission including:
 - Volume of requests
 - Characteristics of requests
 - Data on performance metrics as they relate to statutory requirements and internal goals

Community F.I.R.S.T.

- DSD, in close collaboration with Gainesville Police Department and Public Works, has begun working with the University Park Neighborhood
- Planning and Code Enforcement staff are addressing recurring complaints
- DSD staff will also continue to coordinate with GPD and PW to help provide services to our houseless

Affordable Housing Dashboard and ADUs

- DSD continues to maintain the Affordable Housing Dashboard
- In support of this, DSD has developed “in-house” design plans for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) with design work by the City Architect and the Deputy Chief Plans Examiner
- Two initial plan sets will be available in late March or April
- Four final plans will be available to the public for use in designing their own ADUs

Transportation Department

Construction Projects

- Received an FDOT grant of \$1.5 million for the University Ave/West 13th St PD&E study
- Received an FDOT grant of \$1.4 \$2 million for the construction of intersection modifications at Northeast 3rd Avenue/Waldo Road
- Advanced implementation of the following projects that are ready for construction:
 - W 10th/12th Street One-Way Pairs
 - Intersection Modifications at Northeast 3rd Avenue/Waldo Road, N Main Street/N 4th Avenue, SW 8th Avenue (1200 block)
 - Northwest 8th Avenue/6th St Lane Repurposing
 - Sidewalks along NE 15th Street, SW 5th Avenue, SW 10th Street, Southeast 18th Street
 - University Avenue & W 13th Street PD&E is nearing completion

Vision Zero Projects

- The Vision Zero Plan was completed in October 2024
 - Updated in-house and led by the City’s Vision Zero Coordinator
 - Second Vision Zero Open House was held on February 26, 2025
- Through on-going collaboration with partner agencies including Alachua County, FDOT and UF the department helped:
 - Secure more than \$1.5 million in federal grants for the City
 - Advance the countywide Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan for future safety investments within City limits
 - Advance the countywide Vision Zero Action Plan for future safety investments within City limits
 - Continue to promote Mobility on Demand

Update and Complete Transportation Plans

- Completed the ADA Transition Plan finding that approximately \$5.1 million is needed to bring all curb ramps within City limits into compliance with current ADA standards
- Implementation of the Trail Wayfinding Plan in Fiscal Year 2025
- The Trails and Greenway Plan is in progress with estimated completion in late 2025
- The Transportation Mobility Plan is in progress with estimated completion in late 2025

Fleet

- Reviewed the City Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) and it is ready for approval
- Working with the City of Alachua on a new SLA for part of the City's fleet
- Vehicle Utilization Plan was revised and completed, with the disposition of underutilized vehicles
- Audit report has been conducted with the division implementing all recommendations
- Replaced:
 - 43 emergency vehicles
 - 22 light-duty vehicles
 - 9 heavy-duty vehicles
 - 12 trailers
- Currently filling Fiscal Year 2025 vehicle order banks while implementing the new citywide fuel system
 - 681 vehicles have had fuel system modules installed and the fuel site upgrades are imminent
- The City of Gainesville was awarded \$14.569 million through the CFI Grant NOFO, which is currently on hold due to executive action
 - The grant application was led by Fleet Management in partnership with City of Gainesville staff, Alachua County and GRU
 - The funding will install 47 chargers at 17 proposed sites in both City and County areas

Parking

- Staff is monitoring parking changes, making modifications and providing reports
- As of January 2025, the new program had generated approximately \$360,000 in revenues
- A draft Valet Ordinance was introduced to the City Commission for future approval
 - Staff continue to meet with potential valet operation agencies to modify ordinance

Regional Transit System (RTS)

- Continued its upward passenger trend
 - Productivity increased by more than 10.3% on passenger trips per hour
- Received a \$26.4 million Low or No Emission (LoNo) grant to purchase 19 Hybrid-electric buses and install a solar facility array at the RTS employee parking lot
 - \$22 million of this grant to purchase hybrid electric buses has been executed
 - Buses expected to arrive by end of calendar year 2026
 - \$4.4 million for solar panels is pending approval
- Completed the design of Phase I of ADA improvements for bus stops
 - Construction on the ramps, shelters, and sidewalks for 98 bus stops is underway
 - 40 completed as February 2025
 - Planned completion in the spring of 2025

- Phase II engineering and design firm is currently working on design for approximately 200 bus stops
- Negotiations are underway for a new University of Florida service contract starting July 1, 2025
- Transit Route Restoration Plan (TRRP) has been completed
 - This plan reimagines the transit network to enhance ridership by improving service operability and mobility options to achieve pre-COVID-19 ridership levels
- RTS completed the Transit Development Plan (TDP) major update
 - This is the strategic guide for public transportation in the community over the next 10 years
 - TDP requirements were formally adopted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in order to receive annual allocations of Operating Assistance (Block Grant funding)

Wild Spaces Public Places*

- Initiation of boardwalk repair at Alfred A. Ring Nature Park
- Renovation of the restrooms at Abby Wambach Park
- Dredging of the Boulware Springs Basins
- Renovation of the historic elevator at the Old Post Office Building and Federal Courthouse (The Hippodrome)
- Construction of a new playground, walking trail and parking lot at Duval Nature Park
- Installation of wayfinding signage along the city's multiuse trails will occur in Fiscal Year 2025
- Work has been completed on the Hidden Gem Park basketball court reconstruction project
- Work has been completed on the renovation of the track at Kiwanis Challenge Park with universal access improvements
- Repair of damage sustained during Hurricanes Helene and Milton has been completed at the Loblolly Woods Nature Park Boardwalk

* Tom Petty Park Pickleball Project Groundbreaking Ceremony (April); the Boulware Springs Revitalization Project Groundbreaking Ceremony (July or August); and the Hippodrome Elevator Repair Celebration (July or August)