



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS
CITY OF GAINESVILLE 2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Local Requests

State Road 331 Corridor Economic Redevelopment (8th Ave/Waldo Road):

Commit multi-year funding support for this transformative redevelopment at the corner of the 36-acre State Road 331 (Waldo Road)/8th Avenue corridor; the project entails development of a new sports tourism facility, expansion of the existing 19,000 square foot MLK Multipurpose Center, and a catalytic stadium upgrade, all of which is expected to revitalize a historically underserved area.

Community Paramedicine Medical Assisted Treatment Program:

Support a second-year state funding request of \$500,000 to continue Fire Rescue's new pilot that involves clinically effective Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for comprehensive behavioral health needs aimed at assisting individuals into full recovery and achieving a self-directed life.

Regional Mobile Command/Hazmat Asset:

Support a state funding request of \$600,000 to add a Mobile Command and Heavy Rescue vehicle which will enhance Fire Rescue capabilities deployed for state emergency purposes as a Type I Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) whose service responsibility extends to all 12 counties of the technical core of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) HazMat response plan.

Dylan Roberts & Child Pedestrian Safety:

Support legislation that allows the Florida Department of Transportation to officially dedicate a newly constructed signalized crosswalk between Northeast 26th Terrace and Southeast 26th Terrace along East University Avenue (State Road 26) in the City of Gainesville Florida, where four-year-old Dylan Roberts tragically lost his life, memorializing him as the overall project aims to ensure improved safety for all pedestrians.

Advocacy Issues

Affordable Housing:

Support the full funding of the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund programs (including SHIP and SAIL) and use the state's General Revenue to support additional affordable housing initiatives.

Homelessness:

Support local service provider operational and emergency housing needs through the continuation of recurring state Homeless Staffing Grant and Challenge Grant funding for homeless services.

Infrastructure:

Support funding for grant/cost sharing programs towards public safety facilities for police, fire, and public works; improve resiliency and address aging critical water, wastewater, electrical, roadway, and stormwater infrastructure; construct and improve bikeway systems; and fund public/private partnerships for developing electrical vehicle charging stations.

Cybersecurity:

Support funding for grant/cost sharing programs to improve cybersecurity.

Home Rule:

Oppose efforts that would create unnecessary preemptive measures curtailing local municipalities' ability to adopt policies that benefit their citizenry and minimize harm at the most local level.

Mental Health, Social, & Support Services:

Urge prioritization towards making resources available for mental health, social, and support services that offer innovative evidence-informed prevention, education, outreach, and crisis intervention to reduce gun violence as a public health crisis.

Energy:

Urge full acceptance for all federal energy rebate assistance designated for Florida so the state does not lose its proportional share of funding to other states; funding, which otherwise would support lowering energy costs and increasing efficiency for Floridians' homes by making home energy upgrades more affordable.

Annexation:

Support legislation that facilitates municipal annexation of unincorporated areas with a priority on facilitating the annexation of unincorporated enclaves and areas where city services are already provided.

Historic Preservation:

Support efforts to create the Florida Historic Tax Credit which will help to revitalize Florida Main Street communities, support heritage tourism, create good paying jobs, and bring vacant and underused historic buildings back to life. We also oppose any legislation that would undermine the protection of historic buildings by making designations obsolete if municipalities are unable to enforce protection.

University Town Communities:

Oppose any new regulatory efforts over workplace instruction or content that would create undue burdens and unnecessary hardships to the economic well-being of university town communities like ours, which hosts one of the nation's Top Five public universities.