



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2023-922

Agenda Date: September 28, 2023

Department: Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area

Title: 2023-922 Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area Housing Programs Update and Recommendations (B)

Department: Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area

Description: Staff will provide a year-to-date update and program recommendations for the following Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area housing programs: My Neighborhood Program, Heirs' Property Assistance Program, and the Neighborhood Paint Program.

Fiscal Note: The Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area funding underwrites these housing initiatives.

Explanation: The Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area (GCRA) has three housing programs that support the GCRA 10 Year Reinvestment Plan. The goal is to preserve and maintain the culture of existing neighborhoods by providing financial support for home improvement and neighborhood beautification.

GCRA is asking the City Commission to consider approving modifications to the three housing programs in order to exhaust the remaining funds.

Recommendations for the Heirs' Property Program:

1. Provide estate planning services.
2. Provide financial assistance for overdue residential property tax bills.

Recommendations My Neighborhood Program:

1. Offer up to \$35,000 or up to \$50,000 if located within the Pleasant Street or Fifth Avenue neighborhood under the program.

2. Program participants must self-certify yearly by October 1 that they continue to qualify under the program, or they will default under the mortgage terms.
3. Allow applicants from any neighborhood that meets the conditions of the program to apply under the program to any other neighborhoods designated by the program.
4. Add Heartwood as an eligible neighborhood under the program.
5. Allow for 18 months for construction completion on a purchased vacant lot.

The recommendation for the Neighborhood Paint Program is to implement a stipulation that states the homeowner can not alter the finished product for five years.

A portion of this presentation was presented on September 19, 2023, to the GCRA Advisory Board ([Agenda #2023-893](#)).

Strategic Connection:

- ☐ Goal 1: Equitable Community
- ☐ Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- ☒ Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- ☐ Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- ☐ Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission hear the presentation and provide direction on staff’s recommendations.