



# City of Gainesville

Harvey L. Ward, Jr., Mayor

April 18, 2024

Ms. Pamela E. Davis  
Chief Executive Officer  
Gainesville Housing Authority  
1900 SE 4<sup>th</sup> Street Gainesville, FL 32641

**Re: Support for the Gainesville Housing Authority's Demolition/Disposition Application for Woodland Park Public Housing Demolition**

Dear Ms. Davis,

I am writing to express my full support for the Gainesville Housing Authority's (GHA) application to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the demolition/disposition of Woodland Park public housing development.

Although Woodland Park has been an important part of Gainesville's affordable housing inventory for more than 50 years, much of it is now obsolete, in poor physical condition, and serviced with substandard appliances and amenities. Currently, many Woodland Park residents must endure Florida summers without central air conditioning. Besides the extreme discomfort, this often results in unsafe air quality and a variety of health problems.

Please note that the City of Gainesville supports GHA's plan to remedy these problems, by demolishing 79 obsolete units and replacing them with 144 modern, efficient multi-family affordable units. This plan increases both the quality and the quantity of affordable housing in the city. In addition, we are pleased with GHA's commitment (as demonstrated by the project's Relocation Plan) to ensure housing for the current residents of the units that are to be demolished (GHA is dedicated to fulfilling HUD's requirements as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations Part 970, Public Housing Program - Demolition or Disposition of Public Housing Projects).

The City has demonstrated its commitment to this development by providing a grant of \$4,285,000, funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds, towards the completion of this project.

I urge HUD to promptly approve the demolition application for the obsolete Woodland Park public housing development.

Sincerely,

Harvey L. Ward, Jr.  
Mayor