



City of Gainesville

Office of the City Manager

City Manager Memorandum No. 230060

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Commission

From: Cynthia W. Curry, City Manager

Date: July 11, 2023

Re: **General Government Department Achievements through June 2023**

Attached is a progress overview report listing accomplishments and milestones reached in Fiscal Year 2023 for General Government Departments through June 30, 2023. A final report will be provided at the end of the fiscal year.

I am available to discuss further at your request.

Attachments:

1. FY2023 General Government Department Achievements through June 2023

cc: Charter Officers
Leadership Team

City of Gainesville

FY 2023 GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

As of June 2023

City Manager's Office:

The City Manager's Office led a redesign and refresh of the City Hall lobby, including improvements to entry appearance, security, neighbor relations and communications signage. The Office has also created and filled the position for the City's first Chief Climate Officer. In addition, the City Manager has kicked-off thirty minute open session meetings with Community Builders across the City to gather feedback on organizational culture and other operational concerns.

American Rescue Plan Act:

The American Rescue Plan Act funding is administered through the City Manager's Office. Through April 30, 2023, \$6.3 million or 19.4% of the \$32.4 million of the allocation has been spent. This represents 16 different projects and subrecipient agreements with over 35 nonprofit organizations. In the Aid to Nonprofit Organizations program, six nonprofit organizations have fully expended their grant award, totaling \$826,400.

Government Affairs and Community Relations:

Through the City's Charitable Campaign, Government Affairs and Community Relations hosted 30 youth in the TeenWorks Summer Job Program. The campaign raised \$45,165 for charity.

The City Services Fairs coordinated by this Department reached an estimated 600 neighbors at three locations over the past year.

The June 2022 fair at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multipurpose Center had 17 participating departments, 2 guest agencies, and an estimated 180 neighbors in attendance. The September 2022 fair at Howard Bishop Middle School had 23 participating departments, three guest agencies, and an estimated 200 neighbors in attendance. Finally, the February 2023 fair at the Senior Rec Center had 26 participating departments, four guest agencies, and an estimated 195 neighbors in attendance. The event had a special presentation panel focused on mental health.

Communications and Marketing:

Communications and Marketing redesigned and launched the City's new website, launched two streaming channels (Roku and Amazon Fire), and coordinated events including the Swearing-in Ceremony, State of the City Address, Indigenous Peoples' Day and the Rosa Parks Celebration.

The Department has broadcast more than 350 hours of live meetings; sent more than 230 e-newsletters and email updates; achieved a social media reach of more than 1.2 million; received more than 1.8 million unique page views on the City website, and handled more than 520 media requests.

Communications and Marketing also has provided more than 250 hours of document translation; improved the City's bilingual digital presence; provided translation services across departments; and has designed the first bilingual outdoor signage for Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs.

Financial Services:

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) successfully completed the FY21 and FY22 audits with clean opinions. The audit findings were reduced from six in FY20 to four in FY21 to two in FY22.

The Department processed more than 20,000 invoices; logged more than 7,400 journal entries, accounting adjustments and ad hoc bank transactions; processed more than 1,700 contract agreements or amendments; handled more than 36,000 pieces of outgoing mail; managed more than 59,000 employee payroll transactions; and worked on more than 22,000 retiree benefit transactions.

Through all of this, DFS continued hiring of key positions and building a collaborative culture within the Department.

Fire Rescue:

Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) responded to approximately 20,000 calls for service, including 662 fire calls with a 97% property save rate. They also responded to approximately 13,000 EMS calls, 800 rescues and 400 special hazards. The HazMat team responded to the chemical explosion in High Springs (as a mutual aid agency). The Tech Rescue Team responded to 14 technical rescues, including entrapments, high-angle rescues, and sinking vehicles. Additionally, GFR responders deployed as part of Florida Task Force 8 to SW Florida after Hurricane Ian.

In cooperation with law enforcement, GFR responded to approximately 148 stabbing and gunshot wound calls and deployed the armored ambulance and SWAT Medics in support of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department SWAT operations 31 times.

GFR promoted fire safety in the community by inspecting approximately 23-million square feet of property; conducting 123 public education events (reaching more than 12,400 students); and installing smoke detectors in 86 homes. The Community Response Paramedicine Program enrolled more than 50 new patients. Paramedic Shane Stocking was recognized for identifying and stopping a human trafficking situation.

Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area:

Through the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area (GCRA), the City has given three Community Partnership Grants—for the 2nd Annual East Gainesville Backyard Barbecue, the Hippodrome's 50th Anniversary Celebration, and the 5th Avenue Arts Festival. The Business Improvement Grant Program is funding work at Sublime Tacos, Sweetberries, and D.A. Joyce Builders. The Neighborhood Paint Program has provided pressure washing and paint for 25 homes, and seven applications have been approved with the Heirs Assistance Program.

The Heartwood Neighborhood has eleven homes occupied (nine purchased through the Dreams2Reality Program), three pending contract and three under construction. There are 16 lots available. A master plan for the interior and exterior renovations of the GTEC Building has been completed. Through a partnership with the Community Weatherization Coalition, 18 households participated in the Home Energy and Water Efficiency Initiative.

Housing and Community Development:

Housing and Community Development (HCD) is using \$7.2 million in ARPA funds to assist with the construction of 203 new rental units and 17 single family homes. HCD also is moving forward with plans to build five new single-family homes and up to 10 new accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on City-owned property. In addition, the City is partnering with Bright Community Land Trust and Habitat for Humanity to build ten additional homes to be placed into the Trust and remain permanently affordable.

Human Resources:

Human Resources (HR) processed nearly 10,000 job applications and hired 391 new employees for General Government and Gainesville Regional Utilities. The team facilitated more than 229 promotions and provided 150 trainings. HR also conducted 251 salary analyses, 104 job audits, assisted with five department reorganizations and worked on three Office of Equity and Inclusion investigations.

This Department has also led the Pipeline Committee to assist staff in roles targeted for reduction as they seek to find suitable new positions with the City or other entities.

Management and Budget:

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) consulted with GRU to develop the new General Fund Transfer formula. The Department is successfully working through the budget development process for FY24.

OMB launched the Special Events Permitting Program and handled more than 230 permits; added Code Enforcement to the workflow at MyGNV. The Department handled more than 1,900 service requests through MyGNV. These requests involved 67 service categories and eleven City departments. OMB also has worked on nine Smart City projects.

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs:

The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) successfully moved through the National Recreation and Park Association's re-accreditation process, meeting all 154 standards and achieving a 100% score for the first time in the City's history. PRCA also reopened Massey Park after a \$2 million renovation as Gainesville's first "boundless" playground. The Forest Park renovation is currently ongoing, as are improvements to the softball fields at Tom Petty Park, the lighting at Possum Creek Skate Park and work underway at the Hippodrome.

The ARPA funded One Nation/One Project program awarded grants of up to \$5,000 to twenty small-scale arts and wellness projects that use the arts and culture to promote youth health and wellbeing with a particular focus on addressing the issue of young people and gun violence.

Youth Athletics is running successful Teen Midnight Basketball and Heat Wave programs this summer at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multipurpose Center. Regular summer youth programming is underway.

The Department is managing feasibility studies for an East Gainesville cultural arts center and the Eighth & Waldo Sports Complex.

Police:

The Gainesville Police Department (GPD) has an 80% clearance rate for homicide cases in FY23. The Department has recently purchased a brasstrax machine with ARPA funding that is able to compare firearm shell casings, resulting in faster arrests. The Department also has purchased a Real Time Information Center that allows officers to access crime databases, camera footage and other technology while in the field.

Public Works:

Public Works has been integral to the planning and early phase development of the Eastside Health and Economic Development Initiative (EHEDI). The Department moved closer to constructing the road and other infrastructure this fiscal year. The half-cent infrastructure surtax is funding a number of

Streets, Stations & Strong Foundations projects now in the planning stages. These include: the GFR administration building; the SW Public Safety Center / Fire Station 9; North Main Street improvements from 39th Ave to 53rd Avenue; NE 9th Street improvements from University Avenue to NE 23rd Avenue; the Public Works hurricane hardened building; and the GPD Property and Evidence Building.

Risk Management:

The Risk Management Department reported the lowest worker's compensation rating in the City's history. The State of Florida has a methodology that uses a Worker's Compensation Modification Factor, or Mod Factor, to rate similar employers. A mod factor of 1.0 would indicate your experience is average to others in your industry. Gainesville is at a .62, meaning our worker's compensation experience is 38% below industry average.

This year also marked the successful transition back to physical training opportunities in the post-pandemic era.

Sustainable Development:

The Department of Sustainable Development has also moved forward with the EHEDI plans, successfully steering approval of land development for the property and acquisition of additional land nearby. Another major project, the approval of the Weyerhaeuser proposal, also moved forward. This ended years of planning negotiations and will bring new development to northwest Gainesville while also protecting the environment.

The Downtown Strategic plan was approved and in December of 2022 the City Commission directed staff to proceed with the first implementation steps. These included establishing a Downtown Management Organization, feasibility studies for the Sweetwater Park and Green Loop, and potential improvements to SE-SW 1st Avenue.

The Streatery on SE 1st Avenue has seen minor improvement with concrete and road construction signs removed and replaced with metal bollards. The Streatery by Flaco's opened to vehicle traffic and the right of way was fixed and altered to create room for sidewalk cafe sitting.

Technology:

The Workday Steering Committee completed the consultant review of the Workday implementation stabilization process. A solicitation for a provider to implement recommendations is in progress. Six team members obtained Workday Pro certifications, and they have established a Workday user workgroup.

In terms of support services, the Workday support team completed 65 change requests; managed more than 3,300 support tickets; and tested and organized Workday release updates.

Transportation:

The Transportation Department received a federal grant of \$8 million to plan and design the University Ave and W 13th St complete street project. This will happen in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation.

The Department now maintains and operates 243 signals, 38 school zones, 54 rapid rectangular flashing beacon crossings, and more than 1,300 network devices over 110 miles of network fiber optics. They added six additional traffic signals and received new grants for cyber security and system resiliency. They incorporated a new statewide Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation

Agreement, which will result in more than \$150,000 of recurring maintenance dollars for future years and 6 additional reimbursable devices.

The Department also hired a Vision Zero Coordinator to help meet traffic safety goals. They have improved bicycle safety at intersections, made progress on roadway and bicycle network expansion projects, enhanced crossings with markings and signals, and added pedestrian activated signals where feasible.

Fleet:

The Fleet Division maintained and repaired 1,580 city-owned vehicles and equipment over the past year. The Division processed more than 13,000 work orders; logged 85% technician productivity; and consistently kept an average of 97% of the fleet available for use.

The Fleet Division has been ranked Top Fleet in the nation for the past three years. This Division is ranked at number 40 out of 100 in the listing “100 Best Fleets in the Americas.” It is ranked in the top 50 of “Leading Fleets.” And it was given a #1 Shop distinction with “Automotive Service Excellence Blue Seal Certified Shop.”

Regional Transit System:

The Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS) is continuing its upward passenger trend in FY 2023 – despite driver shortages and other challenges – expects to surpass the more than four million trips documented in FY 2022. The Department has added a fourth electric bus and completed installation of the charging station. Digital information signs are in place at the Rosa Parks and Butler Plaza transfer stations.

RTS competed successfully for more than \$31 million in grant funding. A few of these grants include the Eastside Transfer Station (\$4 million), bus replacement (\$6.6 million for twelve buses), electric buses and zero emission transition plan (\$1.35 million), ADA improvements (\$2 million) and planning restoration (\$300,000).