



**INTERNATIONAL  
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**LOCAL UNION 1205**

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To Whom it May Concern:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local 1205, representing over 600 workers and their families here in North Florida is proud to endorse the renter's rights ordinance proposed by the Alachua County Labor Coalition. Promoting a better life for working class people is fundamental to the purpose of our organization and fair housing is an important component of that. There can be no economic security without fair housing. The proposed ordinance would take advantage of existing county resources and with little or no extra cost to protect both renters and responsible landlords from unscrupulous slumlords who take advantage of people who currently have few avenues available to enforce their rights.

We firmly believe that renters in Alachua county deserve the basic protections offered by this proposal. People should be able to secure housing free from discrimination. People need to be provided information on their rights and responsibilities as tenants, and how to enforce those rights. People need an accessible form of arbitration when either parties' responsibilities aren't being met. Responsible landlords shouldn't be forced to compete with slumlords not living up to their responsibilities. Renters should have a reasonable expectation of safety and energy efficiency when renting in Gainesville. There are many issues facing Alachua county involving housing and this ordinance certainly isn't a solution to them all. It is however a good step in the right direction towards fair housing for our community.

James Ingle,  
Pres. IBEW 1205

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