

Greetings Commissioners,

The Cultural Arts Coalition is reaching out to you to ask you to support ACLC' Renter's Rights Proposal.

Each summer our youth as Environmental Ambassadors look at ways to save energy to reduce GRU bills for Gainesville residents as a whole but specifically East Gainesville where many rentals are old structures. We have partnered with GRU on projects to reduce energy use; like installing energy saving light bulbs in more than 200 houses in East Gainesville including Lincoln Estates, also our Ambassadors was a part of a permanent exhibit at the FI Museum of Natural History sharing everyday ways we can reduce energy usage in our homes.

This past summer the Ambassadors read Cynthia Barnett's publication "Energy Burden". A big part of that was working poor people paying large percentages of their income on utility bills. Many of them living in substandard housing losing energy through windows, doors, little to no insulation and appliances that contribute to high utility bills.

In too many cases landlords are absent or refuse to do anything about their tenant's high utility bills because they know options are few for the working poor.

These Gainesville residents need your help. Whereas we do not want to cause any hardships to landlords who are trying to be fair to their tenants, we do need a way to assure the working poor get treated with the same basic rights and protections for those making six figures.

CAC strongly encourage you to create whatever policies that you can, so that you can say to our young people, you did everything you could for All of your citizens no matter their income or position in life.

Sincerely,

Nkwanda Jah/Environmental Ambassadors Program