

August 12, 2020

City Commission
P.O. Box 490 Station 19
Gainesville, Florida
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citycomm@cityofgainesville.org

Dear Gainesville City Commissioners,

I write on behalf of the United Faculty of Florida-UF (NEA/AFT/AFL-CIO), the union representing faculty and professionals at the University of Florida. UFF-UF formally endorses the Alachua County Coalition's (ACLC) proposed Renters' Rights ordinance. This proposal received unanimous support from UFF-UF's Council in its February 14 meeting. In endorsing it, we join a growing number of organizations in our region who believe that all renters in our community deserve the basic rights and protections described therein.

Many of UF's faculty, staff, and students rent. They and other renters in this community are due basic protections such as a safe place to live, freedom from discrimination and negligent landlords, affordable utility bills, and disclosure of their rights and responsibilities as tenants.

Many of UF's faculty, staff, and students hail from states across the country and nations around the world. Those who rent should be protected from discrimination based on their source of income and their citizenship status. The ACLC's proposal contains language to this effect and thus reflects the value we all place in our community's diversity.

UF's employees benefit from having laws that govern their relationship with their employer. Similarly, UF's students benefit from having a Conduct Code, an Honor Code, and a list of Rights and Responsibilities that delineate their relationship with the university.

Likewise, renters will benefit from having a clear definition of their relationship with their landlords. And because both landlords and tenants will benefit from having a process for addressing negligence by either party, UFF-UF supports the proposal's plan to establish a mediation program for rental deposit disputes, one modeled on Alachua County's successful Wage Recovery Ordinance.

We urge the Gainesville City Council to support the Alachua County Labor Coalition's proposed comprehensive Renter's Rights ordinance as soon as possible.

Sincerely Yours,



Paul Ortiz, President,
United Faculty of Florida--UF (FEA/NEA/AFT/AFL-CIO)