

ALACHUA COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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CYNTHIA MOORE CHESTNUT, CHAIR

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AUGUST 17, 2020

Mayor Lauren Poe
Gainesville City Commissioners
City of Gainesville
Gainesville, FL

Dear Mr. Mayor and Commissioners,

Over a year ago Jason Fults presented to the Alachua County Democratic Party, the case for a rental rights ordinance in Gainesville. Our members supported it with a vote of 53 - 0. We all wanted help for the thousands of citizens in Gainesville with substandard housing. Almost all of us in the DEC come home to well-insulated, air-conditioned homes, with working toilets, and roofs that do not leak. We want these things for all our brothers and sisters in our town.

To my understanding, too often many landlords here are negligent about repairs. They discriminate by economic and citizenship status in their rentals. And some do not return security deposits even without cause.

Low income renters have no recourse to these practices, which drive up their utility bills and housing costs. They are in no position to shoulder large legal fees necessary to challenge such treatment. It is really so sad for them.

The Rental Housing Ordinance that you are considering would stop these unjust practices and finally create a code for renters and landlords alike to abide by.

Gainesville is a city that cares, and we in the Democratic Party do also. We

wholeheartedly support an ordinance that would bring such important improvements to the lives of so many. It is wonderful that you are considering such an ordinance. We hope you pass it.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Moore Chestnut

Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Chair
Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee

Xc: Jason Foults