



## Agenda Item Summary

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**File #: 23-00720**

**Agenda Date: 11/14/2023**

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**Agenda Item Name:**

Chair Letter Requesting the Governor's Cabinet Consider Transferring the Restrictions Requiring use of the property as a Fairgrounds from the Waldo/Weisman Tract (Ecoloop) Property on NE 63rd Avenue to the Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center

**Presenter:**

Missy Daniels, Assistant County Manager

**Description:**

Chair letter to the Governor's Cabinet requesting transfer of the *Declarations of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions* requiring the property to be used solely for a fairground from the property along NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Gainesville, known as the Ecoloop, to the Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center property.

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the Chair letter and allow the Chair to sign and forward to the State

**Prior Board Motions:**

None

**Fiscal Note:**

There is no fiscal impact related to the release of the covenants and restrictions on the Waldo/Weisman Tract as requested in this chair letter

**Strategic Guide:**

Infrastructure

**Background:**

In 1972 the State's Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (TIITF) conveyed the original 39<sup>th</sup> St. fairgrounds property to the county with deed restrictions that required the County to use the property for a county agricultural center and county fairground and construction of facilities for these purposes, prohibiting commercial use that is inconsistent with an agricultural center and fairgrounds.

In 2007, to allow for the 39<sup>th</sup> Street property to be redeveloped, the County requested that the TIITF release the deed restrictions from the 39<sup>th</sup> Street property, and in exchange for that release, the County agreed to place the restrictions on a portion of the Ecoloop property by the Leveda Brown Transfer Station, known in the deeds as the Waldo/Weisman Tract. The deed restrictions were moved to the Waldo/Weisman property with additional covenants and restrictions that included use of the property for emergency/disaster shelters, community meetings, trade shows, school-based education, youth activities, business and economic development and cultural events. Alachua County has developed the Agriculture and Equestrian Center that contains a state-of-the-art agricultural center with a full-

service event site offering facilities for equestrian and agricultural activities, festivals, trade shows, animal show, banquets, and other community events. Events include the Alachua County Youth Fair and Livestock Show, horse shows and goat shows and the UF/IFAS Master Gardener Plant Sale. As this property meets the intent and requirements of the State's covenants and restrictions, the County is requesting by this chair letter that if the Cabinet still deems it necessary to place these covenants and restrictions on a property to further ensure these types of uses in perpetuity, that the Waldo/Weisman site be released from the covenants and covenants in turn be placed on the Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center site