



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Anna Prizzia, *Chair*
Mary Alford, *Vice Chair*
Charles S. Chestnut, IV
Ken Cornell
Marihelen Wheeler

Administration
Michele L. Lieberman
County Manager

November 14, 2023

Mr. Scott Woolam
Senior Program Analyst
Division of State Lands
3900 Commonwealth Blvd
Mail Station 100
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Woolam,

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners is requesting the Cabinet consider 1) releasing property along NE 63rd Avenue, Gainesville, described in the attachment titled *Declarations of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions*, from the restrictions requiring that the property be used solely for a fairground; provided fairground uses include agricultural, community-based or government-oriented activities and 2) accepting new covenants, conditions and restrictions that Alachua County has agreed to place on the proposed Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center property, property described in Exhibit B.

The original conveyance of property from the Board of Trustees to Alachua County in 1972 through Deed Number 25315 was to require the property be used 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. The deed restrictions were subsequently moved to an alternate 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 now invested \$18 million in the purchase and development of a better situated property that now 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. Upcoming 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 that 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.

Sincerely,

Anna Prizzia, Chair
Alachua County Commission

Chr23.XX
AP/**/**

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney