



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2024-947

Agenda Date: December 16, 2024

Department: Office of the City Manager

Title: 2024-947 Camping on Public Right-of-Way, Property and Parks (B)

Department: Office of the City Manager

Description: Discuss HB 1365 (Florida Statute §125.0231) regarding camping in Public Right-of-Way, on Public Property and in Parks.

Fiscal Note: This item has no fiscal impact.

Explanation: HB1365 (Florida Statute §125.0231) went into effect on October 1, 2024. Florida Statute §125.0231(4) takes effect on January 1, 2025.

Section 125.0231, Florida Statutes, (“Camping Statute”) provides that Florida counties and municipalities may not authorize or otherwise allow any person to regularly engage in public camping or sleeping on any public property, including but not limited to, any public building or its grounds and any public right-of-way under the jurisdiction of the county or municipality. Most of the Camping Statute went into effect on October 1, 2024. However, subsection (4) of the statute goes into effect on January 1, 2025, and provides for a civil action (including costs and fees) against applicable counties and municipalities to enjoin a violation of the Camping Statute.

In order to comply with §125.0231, the City of Gainesville modified Article V of Chapter 23 of the City Code of Ordinances related to obstructions and prohibited activities on public property and rights-of-way including public camping or sleeping.

This ordinance will provide the City with an enforcement mechanism against public camping or sleeping, which is in compliance and consistent with the Camping Statute. The ordinance was approved on 1st reading by the City Commission on 11/21/24. It is scheduled for 2nd reading on 12/5/25. This ordinance will be effective immediately upon adoption.

Strategic Connection:

- Goal 1: Equitable Community
- Goal 2: More Sustainable Community

- Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The Joint City/County Commission 1) receive a presentation from staff and 2) take action as appropriate.