

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

April 9th, 2019

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:00 pm and announced that the meeting may be filmed or audio recorded and may be available to the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with 80 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Berrocal
- Blomeley
- Dubois
- Entringer
- Freedman
- Goren
- Jesurajan
- John
- Kendrick
- Martin
- Matei
- McCreary
- Orban
- Dilan Patel
- Prieto
- Smith
- Weninger
- White

Senate President Shaw allows the City Commission to conduct their meeting.

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

- Mayor Poe introduces himself to the chamber.
- There are three items on the commission's agenda.
- There are two commissioners missing from the meeting tonight.
 - Commissioner Simmons and Commissioner Johnson are not available

There is a motion to adopt the agenda. That motion is seconded. With no objections, that motion passes.

- Commissioner Arreola introduces himself.
 - Is the District III Commissioner.
 - This district encompasses most of the area west of 34th Street.
 - First generation American
 - Ran for City Commission to give the younger generation in Gainesville a voice.
 - Has been able to work alongside a very progressive City Commission.
- Commissioner Warren introduces herself.
 - Is a Commissioner At-Large.

- Attended University of Florida from St. Petersburg, and fell in love with the city of Gainesville.
- Impressed with the sense of community both on and off campus in Gainesville.
- Issues that were in the 1970s are similar to issues today.
- Have been involved with housing problems and homelessness.
- The biggest issue looked at by Commissioner Warren is how to deal with the homeless.
- It is exciting to see some of the services provided today.
- The housing sub-committee has really sparked conversation on housing issues from all parties.
- Young people are making change on national issues.
- Commissioner Hayes-Santos introduces himself.
 - Is the District IV Commissioner.
 - Is a double-gator. Graduated from the University of Florida with Finance degree and a master's degree in international business.
 - Issues worked on by Commissioner Hayes-Santos are renters' rights, zero waste initiatives, distributing high-speed broadband internet, and having a vibrant downtown/park system.
 - Is very happy to have these meetings with the Student Senate.
- Commissioner Ward introduces himself.
 - Is the District II Commissioner.
 - Does not directly represent the students at UF, but makes it a point that "we all represent you."
 - Asks the senators to come to City Hall for the meetings.
 - As a UF graduate, worked in Weimer Hall.
 - There lots of things that are being worked on.
 - Out of over 400 municipalities, the Gainesville area is the 13th largest in the state.
 - Gainesville offers services that many other larger cities do not.
 - There are still people in our community who are not being served as well.
 - When everyone is doing well, we all benefit.
- Mayor Poe states that he was just re-elected and will serve for the next three and a half years.
- Excited about Gainesville transitioning to the federal voting cycle in the fall. Will be the last Gainesville mayor elected in a spring election.
- Is not originally from Gainesville.
- More than ever, the city is willing to confront some of their major challenges.
- Introduces the city staff in attendance to the meeting.
- Is very excited to be working in conjunction with the University of Florida.
- Two years plus two months ago, Mayor Poe signed an agreement with President Fuchs, a memorandum of understanding.
 - \$200,000 in grants has been awarded to students since agreeing to this memorandum.
 - There were 64 grants in total submitted for this program. Each college at UF applied for a grant.
 - Talks about the "Community Paramedicine" Grant.

- There were social needs that were not met by the city, not health emergencies.
- Gives example with the first person that this program worked with.
 - The patient was very limited in mobility and therefore could not visit the doctor for his condition.
 - The program helped to transport him to the hospital and acquire him a primary care physician.
 - He was then prescribed a wheelchair to help with his mobility.
 - Because his house was inaccessible by wheelchair, the program helped to create a walkway from the street to his house.
 - This patient's quality of living has increased tremendously due to the partnership between the City of Gainesville and the University of Florida.
- We have the most diverse City Commission in Gainesville history.
 - There are two white members, one Latino, four women, two black members, and one LGBTQ member.
- Until outcomes show that every demographic is given the same opportunity, there will still be work to do.
- Introduces the first item on the agenda: Renters' and Tenants' Rights and Responsibilities.
 - Commissioner Areola:
 - First wanted to look at mediation programs between landlords and tenants.
 - There is a lot that can be done to ameliorate the problems between landlords and tenants.
 - These problems could anywhere from security deposit disputes, to roommate problems.
 - Another issue to be addressed is a Tenant's Bill of Rights.
 - Florida law requires information to be given to tenants, but by a number of different means.
 - Wants to implement a requirement where on the front of every lease has a "renters' rights" section.
 - This has gotten some good response from the landlord community in Gainesville.
 - Another issue is increasing housing and tenant education for not only students, but other Gainesville residents.
 - Wants to amend Fair Housing Codes.
 - Some of the points include handling discrimination based on income and ethnicity.
 - The Fair Housing Act encompasses a lot of this issue.
 - Mandatory disclosure of occupancy limits has been talked about.
 - Would like to ensure that landlords are not allowed to ask tenants where they are from and current housing status.
 - Energy efficiency reports by landlords are being discussed to make mandatory.
 - Would like to create a fund that landlords can dip into to increase the quality of living within their properties.

- Looking into ways that can help to support Airbnb owners and ensure the safety of both their houses and the neighborhood.
- Commissioner Hayes-Santos:
 - Minimum health and safety standards are currently being added to ensure that properties in Gainesville are safe and livable.
 - Wants to address energy efficiency as well.
- Commissioner Warren:
 - There is a large gap between landlords and tenants regarding communication.
 - “You should walk through a house as a rental just as if you are there to buy.”
 - “The first responsibility is to take care of yourself.”
 - To be informed, there must be a new approach on the marketing side.
 - The journalism department at UF could help with this.
 - Encourages the chamber to come to City Hall with strategies to market.
 - What you do as a renter is going to be very similar to what you do as a homeowner.
 - The other responsibility is to learn how to hold your landlord accountable.
 - There are problems and solutions, wants to encourage more involvement when continuing this conversation.
 - Landlords are looking to please the University of Florida Students.
 - Cannot solve this problem alone. The citizens must be engaged in solving these issues as well.
- The committee will sunset on June 1st.
- Opens the floor for questions and comments.
 - Senator Jones: How do you plan to work with the University to help alleviate stress burdened on students facing the inconsistencies between the start of the school year and the move-in/move-out period?
 - Commissioner Areola: The University of Florida must consider shifting their academic schedule. Florida Law prohibits the city from forcing properties to adhere to the University calendar.
 - Senator Bindi: Who does the burden of the Health and Safety standard fall upon?
 - Commissioner Warren: these standards are often listed in the leasing documents. Issues such as a roof leak are the responsibility of the landlord, for example. Do not assume the responsibility is that of the landlords or yours. Communication is key when considering one’s responsibilities versus the landlord’s responsibility. Speaks on the issue of mildew versus mold. States that mildew is a housekeeping responsibility of the tenant, whereas mold is a responsibility of a landlord.
 - Mayor Poe: Wants to implement minimum safety requirements. Although there are bad landlords, there are just as many bad tenants. These move-in standards must meet criteria before moving in, in theory.
 - (No name was stated): What would you suggest be done about roof inspections?

- Commissioner Hayes-Santos: Properties would be given ratings based on certain aspects, and a roof would be one of those ratings.
- Senator Zelin: Would like to speak up and support the expansion of Renters' Rights and appreciates those who are willing to speak up for those rights. Recently the Senate passed a resolution supporting the Renters' Rights Campaign. Believes student renters' are entitled to these rights and asks what Student Senators can do to help solve this issue.
- Commissioner Areola: We have had the same conversation, and have been working closely with the attorney of ACLU.
- Commissioner Hayes-Santos: We implore senators to come to the City Commission Meetings. We need bodies and people to tell stories. There is a large contingency of landlords. It's up to students to represent the student body.
- Minority Party Leader Grabowski: In regards to student housing, there is a difference between the landlords that control the large apartment complexes versus the landlords that control smaller properties. What is your approach to handle these inconsistencies to help ensure that rights are afforded to all renters?
- Commissioner Areola: We want the same standards for everyone. We must remember to keep this conversation open, and leaves seats to the table open. A landlord with few properties is far different than one with much more. It is important to acknowledge their different problems. Wants set standards for tenants as well as the different types of landlords.
- Senator Perez: Would like to know how the University of Florida's Strategic Expansion Plan will affect rental availability.
- Mayor Poe: I do not think that UF is building residence halls in the specified area anymore. There has been talks of Eastward expansion, which will bring economic revitalization. The city has already zoned this area for higher density. For every luxury student housing complex that is built, it decreases the prices of older apartments. It lowers housing stock.
- Senator Portugues: What are some ideas in increasing efficiencies in properties?
- Commissioner Warren: You can go online to Gainesvillegreen.org, to see how homes compare to other homes in the neighborhood in energy efficiency. This can be misleading, though, as it doesn't report how many people live in the home as well as their usage. Has talked about increasing landlord and tenant relationships. Taking care of places will result in fewer calls from tenants.
- Commissioner Hayes-Santos: Currently looking at minimum energy efficiency standards being implemented.
- Senator Ragan: Read in the Alligator that six new luxury apartment complexes would be built by 2020. How do you plan to combat the affordability issues that students will face?
- Mayor Poe: Asks to be engaged in this housing conversation in the coming weeks. It is the top priority for the City Commission. For every one of these apartments being opened up in luxury, it helps with supply in the

housing department in Gainesville. Working with many Gainesville entities to really see these changes come to fruition.

- Alfredo Ortiz: Did not have a home when he moved to Gainesville due to being displaced by Hurricane Maria. Was forced to find housing within a few days. How can we make sure through the initiative that people, students or not, are not forced into signing a lease that is the first they come across, that may be more expensive than what they can afford.
 - Mayor Poe: Everything brought up is exactly what we are working on. There is no “silver bullet” to this problem. None of the commission can say we have the solution to housing challenges. However, this issue is the top priority for the city.
 - Commissioner Warren: Typically, one thinks of government agencies providing funds for solving housing problems. Relying on taxes is not the solution to this problem, but the anchor-institutions getting more involved could be.
 - Commissioner Ward: It is important to note that between 2,500 to 3,000 people move to Gainesville each year. There is not enough housing to match the influx of people moving to Gainesville. It is more profitable to build high-rises, to appease investors. All cities are facing this problem. The reason for this is that the federal government has, in a way, given up on this issue. The problem comes from D.C. and Tallahassee changing the way they do things. From the 1930s-1970s, the government did a good job providing affordable housing. It’s not that the state has forgotten how to provide affordable housing, there is simply less money. Asks the chamber to vote for the people who are passionate about this initiative.
- Email Citycomm@gainesville.org
 - The upcoming meetings for this committee will be on April 16th, May 7th and May 21st all from 3:00-5:00pm.
 - The committee’s main desire was to have a diversity of voices in this conversation.
 - The landlords and labor forces has been vocal.
 - The main goal is to craft a solid policy that helps with the issues that have been shared, and can be enforceable to improve renters’ problems.
 - Opens the floor for public comment.
 - Sheila Pane (sic): Is involved with the Alachua County Labor Coalition. Go online to <https://laborcoalition.org/> Encourages the chamber to attend the renters’ rights meetings. Every unit needs to be licensed and inspected. Lower utility bills does not take a lot.
 - Eli Barrett: Finds it concerning with the commission relying on exclusively on paper reports, when these issues already existed. The voices of oppressed do not need charts and graphs to understand this problem. This fund for landlords not being burdened by fixing costs has problems, believes that landlords not affording fixes should be given money by the government. Because landlords should not own properties if they cannot fix it themselves. Mentions that the funds generated by the city government should be allocated elsewhere.

- Jesse Cosme (sic): Was at the Senate meeting last week to voice his support of the University of Florida SG's support of the Renters' Rights Campaign. Did not hear a lot about affordability discrimination in the ordinance. Miami-Dade County and Broward County have already adopted changes to affordability discrimination, and the City Commission could at this issue.
 - Jacob Locke: Would like to speak his support for the Renters' Rights Campaign. Would like to reiterate how important it is for people to have access to affordable housing. Asks for transparency with safety of housing for example.
 - Jane Grey (sic): Would like to briefly explain why she supports this campaign. Believes that the City of Gainesville's attempt to increase affordable housing is very important. Urges the commission to push this legislation through.
 - Jeff Look: Interim head of the Gainesville Code Enforcement Commission. Would like to plug the education piece of this legislation. There is an app, "311 GNV", that allows people to report code violations. The Commission boasts a 99% compliance rate.
- Second item on the agenda: The Commission's Zero Waste Policy Plan.
 - The City of Gainesville has been working on a "zero waste" policy for the past year to help reduce the amount of waste that is put back into the environment.
 - 70% of all water that goes down drains is purified and put back into Florida aquifers.
 - There is also a 90% recycling goal.
 - Invites Dan Hoffman, one of the Assistant City Managers, to speak about this policy plan.
 - One of two Assistant City Managers.
 - Oversees public works. Public works and the solid waste division of public works has been tasked by the City Commission to come up with a zero waste initiative.
 - This initiative's goal is to reduce waste that is released into the waste stream.
 - The commission has allocated resources for the city to hire Sustainability Managers to oversee the program. Very close to filling that position.
 - There is also a waste composition study being conducted that will give an overview of what type of waste is being discarded and how much of it.
 - Collaborating with the University of Florida and Alachua County to determine this data.
 - There are resources for a strategic plan to be made after this waste composition study is complete.
 - The commission also recently passed an ordinance that bans single-use plastic bags
 - Laws to reduce plastic and styrofoam use will be enforced starting on January 1st of 2020.
 - Zerowastegac.com is a website that will provide lots of resources about this initiative.

- Mayor Poe:
 - This will go into effect on the January 1st of the coming year.
 - Currently engaged in a public education outreach campaign, informing both consumers and business of what the standards are and how they can comply with them.
 - Also working with the University of Florida. The university has done a lot to work in the direction of zero waste.
 - Many private vendors on campus have not yet made this transition. States that if this is an important issue to you, you should let the vendors know that. Encourages the chamber to voice their expectations for the vendors on campus.
 - However, most of the UF dining facilities and Aramark services on campus have made this transition
 - Would like it to be seamless between on-campus and off-campus in order to create that standard.
 - There is about an 80% compliance rate for recycling within residential communities.
 - The biggest challenge is within the multi-family living situations. These are often residents who live in apartment complexes.
 - This is a 4% compliance rate of recycling.
 - It is required that these residents recycle, however the compliance rate is extremely low.
 - One of the big reasons for this participation rate is that it is inconvenient for the renters to discard their recycling materials at the collective area within the apartment complexes.
 - More than half of all people in Gainesville live in apartments.
 - Currently at about 55% participation rate for recycling.
 - Would like to hear ideas from the chamber on how to encourage renters to recycle more and how to get the owners of these properties to encourage it as well.
- Opens the floor to ideas and suggestions on how to improve upon this recycling goal.
 - Senator Rodriguez: Clarifies with Mayor Poe that the city has been a leader in zero waste. Can you tell the landlords to ensure their residents are recycling and enforce fines for those who do not comply?
 - Mayor Poe: “I can tell them, that doesn’t mean they’re gonna listen to me. I have much less power than you think I do.” The City of Gainesville has banned single-use plastic bags and styrofoam. Gainesville is the second city in the state to do so. The next step is to remove food waste from the waste stream. Has been working with an industrial-scale composting company. A biologist from UF partnered with an outside source to come up with a biological agent. This biological agent is injected into the waste piles and helps to complete the composting process from waste to soil within 40 days. The landlords and tenants have been told to participate in recycling, it’s the law, however they are not listening. It is probably not a

one-step solution, however variety of ideas may be used to help solve this issue.

- Senator Kaufman: Some of the issue has to do with a lack of awareness throughout the community as to what is recyclable and what is not. This confusion can lead to people electing not to recycle. Also, many tenants do not know of recycling areas in their apartments. Believes that a better communication of what types of materials can be recycled is important to increasing participation. States that many apartment residents may not even know if their apartment complexes have areas for recycling. Better communication between the landlords and the tenants on where recycling areas are on the properties can also help boost engagement.
- Senator: Believes that a main problem in the lack of engagement is laziness. It is easier to throw out all waste together than to separate the recyclable material. States that his complex has only one area for recycling and it is out of the way for many residents. *inaudible*
- Commissioner Hayes-Santos:
 - It is a law for apartments to provide recycling, but there is a loophole which states it must be “accessible” to the residents.
 - There is no clear definition for what is considered to be “accessible”. Some people may say that accessible means that it is somewhere on the property and some may say that accessibility is closer to each apartment building.
 - Some believe it would be effective to place a recycling bin next to all waste bins to make it easier for residents to access recycling resources.
 - Another solution that has proven effective in other communities is landlords are mandated to provide recycling bins that are to be placed within the homes and residents are able to bring that out with their trash.
- Senator Lovesky: One thing that may be effective is offering a “reward” for all items to be recycled. States that in various places there is a small \$.05 reward for every bottle that is turned in a recycled. This may be an incentive for people to recycle.
- Mayor Poe: States that growing up in Oregon, turning in cans and bottles for small money rewards was a great incentive to get kids to recycle. However, this could not be done on a city scale due to partnerships with bottle companies and other obstacles. Partnering with other Florida institutions could earn the legislature’s attention. Could see a possibility for this idea if the University partnered with the 28 other state colleges and made this a priority for the Florida Legislature.
- Senator Stein: Would like to echo the sentiment that a commissioner previously stated having to do with separate bins in each apartment. Believes that separate bins would help to institute change within each apartment unit. When there are separate bins already provided, the process starts itself and recycling becomes much less of a hassle.

- Minority Party Leader Grabowski: The question should be about whether it is more convenient to discard trash or to recycle. Making a recycling bin more accessible than a trash can could prove to be a way to increase participation. Believes that when people are forced to go out of their way to throw away trash, people will recycle more and the change will be more visible.
 - Senator Evans: Believes that accessibility is definitely an issue when accessing the recycling areas. Dealing with getting access to the recycling bins and making the path a bit clearer would help increase participation. Mandating directions to the recycling bins or a clear outline as to where they are located may be beneficial to students and working towards the recycling goal.
 - Senator Calvin: One issue Senator Calvin has found at his apartment complex is that recycling bins are often full due to the shortage of bins. It may deter people from recycling if they see that the bins are always full. Therefore, an increase in the number of bins placed within apartment complexes may also help to increase participation. Has a few questions for the. With the price to produce plastic being so cheap, is there any concern in the increase of price and electricity it will take to produce the paper bags? How will the ban of single-use plastic bags impact the City of Gainesville?
 - Mayor Poe: “Recycling is a global market.” The whole point behind zero waste is to not use certain products in the first place to avoid having to deal with recycling it and reusing it later on. The problem with single-use plastic is that, “it’s there basically forever”, whereas paper breaks down and re-enters the ecosystem. Encourages the senators to check out the “trash trap” at Sweetwater Wetlands. People will quickly switch to reusable bags. According to Mayor Poe, single-use plastics and Styrofoam will soon become “foreign” and a “thing of the past”.
 - Commissioner Ward: The zero-waste policy is meant to treat the waste issue, not the carbon issue. “Every styrofoam cup that I have used still exists.” Styrofoam does not go away. The challenge is to stop using the Styrofoam and the plastic bags. If we stop creating mountains of garbage that do not go away, we are a step ahead. It’s very hard to enforce all laws. The enforcement of the single-use plastic law was pushed back to January 1st to help educate both consumers and retailers on the reasoning behind the law. Quotes an article from Publix in South Carolina talking about making the community better for the future by making changes in the present. This article was released after Publix in South Carolina stopped using plastic bags. Encourages everyone to stop and talk to the manager of Publix during their next visit to voice how important it is to stop using plastic bags.
 - Commissioner Hayes-Santos: Asks member of the chamber who mentioned the full-sized recycling bins to report the issue on 311 GNV and Solid Waste inspectors would resolve the issue.
- Opens the floor to the public:

- Nikolas Bindi: States that in order for compostable straws to be composted properly, there must be a compost location that specializes in composting that specific material, otherwise the straw acts as a traditional plastic straw. Does not believe that Gainesville currently has a site that is made especially for that material.
 - Mayor Poe: Next step will be implementing a “straw by request” ordinance soon. Will have to ask for a straw instead of being given one up front. States that businesses will like this because it will save them a lot of money. There are real ADA reasons for straws and would like to allow for the option of straws when needed. This issue is similar to the “compostable plastic bag” in which it is not truly compostable. This is also a reason why it is important to bring industrial composting into Gainesville.
 - Senator: There is currently a piece of legislation in the Florida State House that would preempt the ban on plastic straws. Whether you support the ban on plastic straws or not, the state government is infringing on the rights of local governments. Encourages those in the chamber travelling to Tallahassee for Gator Day to advocate against this piece of legislation.
 - Mayor Poe: The City Commission has voted against the Senate and House versions of these bills. It is a standing rule that the City Commission has always opposed preemption. View local government as the best government.
 - Bailey Lovesky: States that about a year ago, three teens found a way to extract carbon from Styrofoam to create activated carbon. This carbon helps to purify water.
 - Solmaz Karimi: Has lived and visited a lot of countries and has observed how they handle sustainability. In Canada, you have to pay extra to for plastic bags. Because of this, customers often bring their own reusable bags to take their goods home. States that she lived in Vermont for two and a half years and Vermont is a very environmentally-friendly state. Vermont removed bottled water from campus, causing students to drink from the water fountain and refill reusable water bottles. There are no plastic water bottles offered at restaurants. Recycling bins are also provided for every household, allowing for easier recycling. Also lived in Dubai for most of her life and states that schoolchildren are taught the importance of composting and recycling. Believes these solutions are things that can be implemented within the community and the nation.
- Third item on the agenda: Sexual Assault On and Off Campus
 - Mayor Poe: Sexual assault is the most under-reported crime in the nation. Talks about pilot program with a “city ambassador” that would be available in the Midtown area watching out for suspicious activity. If there is a threatening situation, the ambassador would call it in to Gainesville Police Department. Believes this program will help to create a safer environment and help avoid some of the threatening situations. Asks Senate President Shaw what the Senate would like to talk about regarding this issue.

- Senate President Shaw: Thinks that this is a prevalent issue on campus and believes that many students are passionate about finding ways to end this problem. States that awareness within the community and resources for sexual assault are some topics that should be touched upon.
- Chief of Gainesville Police Department, Tony Jones:
 - Education is one of the ways to spread awareness of this issue.
 - When he first started, it was embarrassing to call in and report that you have been a victim of sexual assault. These days have changed, and they continue to change.
 - Feels honored to be one of eight cities in the nation that was approved to enact comprehensive sexual assault case training for the police force.
 - Hopes that the city can go above and beyond in this issue.
 - Every call is taken very seriously. Each case works with Victim Services, Shands Hospital, and the UFPD.
 - The Police works with many entities, including advocates, UFPD, and UF Health Shands Hospital.
 - Victims have to be offered support throughout the entire episode.
 - “Education is key.”
 - As far as prevention goes, looking at Midtown and other populated nightlife areas, after bars close is a time period that needs to be paid attention to.
 - Try to put additional units in populated areas at populated times to combat this issue. Also works with the University Police Department to keep eyes on both the university side and the city side.
 - Want to make the environment safe for everybody and create a safe experience for everyone.
- Gainesville Police Department Chief Inspector, Captain Jorge Campos:
 - Was formerly a detective, and worked on a sexual violence squad.
 - Talks about a case in which a victim was sexually assaulted behind the Swamp bar at Midtown. This person was arrested and convicted.
 - The only way to pursue this case was if the victim gave permission to do so, which was difficult due to the victim being inebriated.
 - Made sure that everything was gathered for the case to successfully try and convict the suspect.
 - All officers are trained to handle sexual assault instances.
 - Training takes into account how the human brain works after encountering a traumatic experience.
 - The GPD works with sexual assault nurses, specifically dealing with non-report sexual batteries.
 - A non-report sexual battery is when a victim goes to the hospital and, in confidentiality, gets examined for sexual assault. These sexual assault kits are given to the police department and are kept in the evidence room until the victim decides to come forward and have the case tried.

- Currently in the process of being accredited by CALEA, and during inspections, the service had no familiarity with these kits being placed in evidence room. They were unfamiliar with the idea behind handling non-report sexual batteries. Their jurisdictions had no idea what these kits were.
- As population changes in the city because of college students, this education must be pushed all of the time.
- The police department offers R.A.D (Rape Aggression Defense) class to help victims defend themselves against attackers.
- Talks about the issue with students entering Uber/Lyft service cars and being sexual assaulted. This issue happens far too often in Gainesville.
 - Getting into these cars anyway is a terrible idea. This happens often when bars close.
 - Look out for your friends. Sometimes have to the firm one in the group and ensure that all your friends get home safely.
- Mayor Poe:
 - Urges students to ask Uber/Lyft drivers what their names, rather than confirming it with them.
 - Changing the conversation is very important.
 - For a long time, the conversation was centered on the question of whether or not there was a “no.”
 - Cases are now centered on whether or not there is a “yes.”
 - The only way to change the culture around sexual assault is changing the language and the culture around it.
- Inspector Campos:
 - The city would never pressure someone into testifying against someone, but supporting victims will help them do so.
 - The Alachua County Sheriff’s Office as well as other jurisdictions have worked all together to tune protocol on these cases.
 - It has been brought to their attention that one’s immigration status may hold someone back from reporting a sexual assault case. These individuals have to be approached in a different way than individuals who do not face these issues.
- Opens the floor to questions and comments.
 - Senator Girshick: Often times when bars close, drivers require students to go to specific locations to be picked up, and these locations are often times very dark and dangerous. If the GPD did this on purpose to avoid congestion, it would be good idea to improve the lighting of these destinations.
 - Inspector Campos: We all understand the chaos that ensues after bars close at Midtown. Part of the reason officers do this is to prevent accidents in the street with pedestrians. We will take a look at this. 1st Avenue has recently added smart lighting, and an assessment could be done.
 - Mayor Poe: Public works will look into this to make sure that something can be done for the lighting.

- Colin: The first thing taught in criminology courses is that sexual assault crimes often go unreported due to the nature of them. How do blue lights and other remote recording devices help with this issue?
- Inspector Campos: Obviously, blue lights give a victim another opportunity to report a crime. Decades ago, phones did not exist like they did today, which was the reason why blue lights were so useful. The main functionality of the blue lights is for victims to be able to report a crime immediately, in case of someone losing their phone, for an example.
- Chief Jones: These lights also serve as a visible deterrent.
- Minority Party Leader Grabowski: One of the main issues is getting survivors to come forth. Things heard in conversations were along the lines of “I didn’t know the resources.” Do you think there would be an opportunity to increase communication of the resources available?
- Inspector Campos: Would advise to collaborate with Rape Victim Advocates, as they have very up to date information that is anonymous. Sexual assault resources back home are never talked about either.
- Nicole Smith: How can we ensure the rights of victims are protected?
- Inspector Campos: Many things, like Title IX, do not apply to the city of Gainesville, but rather educational institutions. Mentions a story about a juvenile carrying a B.B. gun through Gainesville, but notes that alerts were not given out because of the UFPD not being aware of the threat, or they did not consider it an immediate threat. The details of Title IX and other jurisdictional boundaries need to be communicated. There are many officials that are experts in these
- Coalition Leader Calvin: One of the main concerns in sexual assaults is that underage students who are assaulted do not report due to the fact that the student is inebriated, and afraid to report to the police because of this. Can you comment on this?
- Inspector Campos: You cannot be charged for underage drinking when reporting a sexual assault. Unless in possession of alcohol, this will never be tried. The police do not care whether or not someone is intoxicated in this regard, but more so to construct a strong case to prosecute the offender.
- Commissioner Warren: If anyone is to the point of inebriation where health is of concern, an amnesty will be enacted and one will not be prosecuted for drinking. The university is much more concerned with making their students are safe.
- Senator Witte: Many victims are concerned about privacy issues when reporting these crimes. Are there any privacy resources that victims can access?
- Inspector Campos: The timelines referred to are completely different with Title IX investigations. Criminal investigations are independent of Title IX. Although lots of information is kept from public, The State of Florida’s “Sunshine Law” allows for public records to flow freely. We do everything we can to protect a victim, but there is information that needs to be given. Mentions “Marsy's Law”, in which it will protect any victim

of any crime from releasing any information. This law must be enforced by the victim, otherwise the information is releasable.

- Minority Party Leader Grabowski: Is there any explanation during the victim interview process that gives victims an idea of what Marsy's Law is and how to enact it?
- Inspector Campos: There is a witness information sheet with this question on it, often times, police officers can forget this due to having to remember so much.
- Unknown: Provides an anecdote regarding sexual assaults occurring by people who pose as Uber drivers. Provides a unique incidence and asks what procedure follows.
- Inspector: More information would have to be given. This case may seem special.
- Senator Gatos: Would like to acknowledge that many international students have problems coming forward and reporting these crimes and appreciates that the police department is working to solve this issue.
- Inspector _: We must ask ourselves, "How do we do this?" The definition of "consent" is very subjective to each person in the chamber. Mentions an analogy of consent in the TV show "Grey's Anatomy." Notes that there must be alternate ways to interpret what consent might be. Sexual assault is something that is very taboo to talk about, but someone should be brave enough to bring it up. Mentions as an adjunct at Santa Fe, he conducts an experiment regarding decision making for students under 25 years old, and how many students' opinions change. This is often not realized unless in a classroom setting.
- Commissioner Arreola: Men have to do a better job at holding other men accountable. Men have to start having conversations, and this has to become the norm. If one sees or hear something, one must become an ally. "Consent is verbal, consent is sacred, and don't forget that."
 - Mayor Poe: Thanks the chief and the inspector for taking their time to talk to the chamber.
 - The main takeaway is that the city takes this issue very seriously.
 - If there is anything that can be done to work with other entities to handle these issues.
 - Every time there is a reported sexual assault, the city feels that it has failed you.
 - These crimes also show light upon what must be done.
- Thanks the chamber for this opportunity to speak to the Student Senate.
- The city really turns over every year. It is important to the commission to institutionalize this tradition. This is why these meetings are so valuable.
- If there is an issue or emergency, the more we build this relationship, the more we can fix things.
- Wants to coordinate another meeting for the summer or fall.

The City Commission adjourns their meeting.