

PLEASE REPORT TO
BOCC BY JULY 6, 2015

June 23, 2015

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
12 SE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Re: Rural Event Centers

Honorable Commissioners:

I respectfully present this letter in coordination with my request during Public Comment at your regularly scheduled meeting.

I am requesting that you direct County Staff to review the Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) as they relate to the establishment of Event Centers located in the rural portion of the County, specifically in the Agricultural zoning districts. Based on conversations with County Staff, it appears that the Comprehensive Plan and ULDC do not address this existing and proposed use. Staff has indicated that they believe this is a use that needs to be addressed in the regulations and would like to formulate such code revisions for your review and adoption.

Currently there are several agricultural based properties that provide facilities for weddings, family reunions, and other activities that are not strictly agriculturally related. My family is in the design process to establish an Agritourism facility, and would like the opportunity to utilize the facility for events that are not strictly agriculturally related, such as weddings. However, the current regulations are silent on this issue, essentially restricting the use. As noted above, we have discussed this with County Staff, and they understand the need for Comprehensive Plan and ULDC updates to allow this specific use.

We respectfully request that you direct staff to review this issue and provide the Commission with proposed Comprehensive Plan and ULDC changes for review and adoption. We believe that this direction will facilitate allowing the current facilities to continue to provide this community benefit, and allow future facilities to be established, all based on defined regulations.

I look forward to your motion and direction to Staff. If I can help or provide any assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Ray Holt

904-612-6336