



From the Desk of Andrew D. Gillum
Mayor Pro Tempore / City Commission, Seat 2



2009 - 1:9

🐾 Back in the Saddle Again 🐾

Harvard Kennedy School was really intense! The “Senior Executives in State and Local Government” leadership program stretched my mental ability and physical agility beyond my expectation. Although it has been only a few years since I trotted across the hills of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, as a college student, it seemed like it had been a century in comparison to my cantering through the Ivy Halls of Harvard.

Imagine cramming a year’s worth of course lectures, study sessions, research, reading assignments, and class excursions into three weeks. You may tire just thinking about it. With bit in bridle, we started very early in the morning, which was not so much a problem for me, but the degree, intensity, and range of the readings and discussions were extremely exhausting. I had to gear up and learn at a quick pace.

My sleep was often interrupted, not by the rigor of the day, but by the myriad of ideas that each day and the readings stimulated. The professors were REALLY good and incredibly brilliant. They pushed the boundaries of conditioned responses, and I was intriguingly challenged to the nth degree. I’m glad I wasn’t a yearling just beginning to ride the trails of public service.

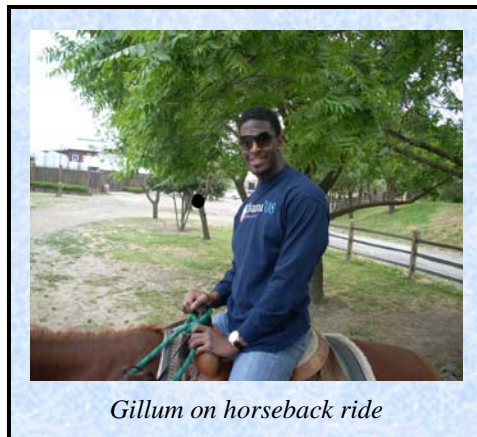
This educational experience was very rewarding. As forecasted in the [June ADG E-Newsletter](#), the program supplied me with innovative and solution-oriented methods for leading. It also allowed me to

[*\(Continued next column.\)*](#)

collaborate with outstanding nationwide officials who confront similar challenges and struggles while serving in public office.

Although this venture was solely financed by my personal funds and a few sponsors, I viewed this as an opportunity to hone my knowledge and skills to make intelligent and visionary decisions regarding the future of our community. Responsible and effective government is necessary now. Our nation is confronted with several issues that trickle down to state and local government. We are faced with an array of concerns including, but not limited to, unemployment, healthcare, housing, food costs, transportation, and budget restraints.

During the City Commission 2009 summer recess, my formal office hours were briefly abated, yet the hooves of my community networking and generating ideas continued to explore the horizons of possibility for our government to go beyond “doing business as usual”. [See FY 2010 Budget](#) on page two for ideas being considered by the Commission.



Gillum on horseback ride

As you might gather, horseback riding is a pastime of mine. The sheer grace and beauty of the animal is reason enough to provide the best possible care. Yet, any equestrian would tell you that looking after a horse means a huge investment of time, energy, and money.

I liken my role as an elected official to that of my admiration and respect for horses. Fully aware that public service is more than a “dog and pony” show, I’ve jumped back into the saddle with valiant fervor. I am fired up and ready to go—blazing a trail for more responsible, responsive, and efficient government.

“Serving is Leading”

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The City Commission has identified \$9.9 million in anticipated cuts. This includes over 100 – 120 people who will lose their jobs. These are citizens who struggle with the economy just as any of us have and who may wake up in a few weeks with no salary, no health insurance, and without a means of providing for their families.

All have valuable roles that kept them busy for at least 40 hours a week. Yet, the City finds itself having to do more with less, spread responsibilities, reclassify positions, collapse departments, and make some programmatic cuts. We propose to cover losses and still provide a level of service that people in this community have become accustomed to at the lowest possible cost. Although we plan to meet our \$7.5M deficit for this year, we still project a deficit in the outgoing years.

We are vigorously reconsidering the question, “What is it that government does that has traditionally been a good service, but we can no longer or ill afford to do?” Innovative ideas to offload some responsibilities are being considered including the reclassification of two (2) golf courses, Hilaman Municipal and Jake Gaither. The City has had preliminary discussions with FAMU regarding taking over, in some capacity, the Jake Gaither Golf Course. The discussions with FAMU are on-going and no agreement has been reached.

Although very popular in the community, we must consider whether we can continue to participate in festivities such as: July 4th, Downtown Getdowns, holiday festivals, etc. We are also looking at eliminating take home vehicles for police and other employees or allowing employees to pay for some of the personal transportation savings received by taking the vehicles home. These are decisions that will play out over the next few months or year or two before we see the full breadth of cost savings. We must work together to make it work for all.

FY 2010 Budget Public Hearings

Thursday, September 10, 2009 @ 6 pm
Wednesday, September 23, 2009 @ 6 pm

Accidents, near misses, fatalities, or just plain breaking the law will hopefully be reduced through the implementation of the Red Light Camera Safety Program (RLCSP). The severity of accidents resulting from running red lights tends to be much greater than that of other types of accidents. This technology is expected to deter traffic control signal violations and increase public safety and welfare. Projected installation will begin before year’s end.

At our June 24, 2009 meeting ([agenda item #7](#)), the City Commission authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract for RLCSP. A vendor award recommendation will be presented at our September 10th meeting. The firm must be capable of a turnkey solution for design, implementation, and maintenance of the system. The intersections listed below are prime candidates for red light camera enforcement. City staff will monitor the sites for two years to determine effectiveness and feasibility.

- Capital Circle NE at Killearn Center Boulevard
- Magnolia Street at Park Avenue
- Tennessee Street at Monroe Street
- North Monroe Street at East 7th Avenue
- North Monroe Street at Tharpe Street
- West Tennessee Street at North Woodward Avenue

Cameras will be strategically placed to take pictures of the vehicles before and after entering the intersections. The violation must be clearly visible on at least two (2) images. Citations are to be sent to the vehicle owner as found in the State of Florida motor vehicle records. Fines can be contested before the City’s Code Magistrates.

Some purport this is a revenue generating mechanism disguised as public safety. While the deployment of this system will produce some funds due to traffic fines, our ultimate goal is to be proactive in preventing potentially catastrophic incidents associated with running red lights. Additionally, the implementation of this technology may prove to save costs by eliminating the need for law enforcement personnel monitoring intersections for these types of infractions. Hence, that manpower can be utilized in other areas of greater need.

☞ Police Escort for Military Funeral ☜

Our city has not been immune to experiencing the casualty of a precious loved one to war. Our hearts grieve with the family and friends who bear this burden more intimately. We extend sincere empathy to all who have personally endured the tragedy of bereavement.

Some question our sincerity and support due to the absence of police escorts while memorializing the legacy of a valued citizen, a cherished family member, a dear friend—a hero. One citizen wrote the Mayor and City Commissioners and asked, “Why does the City of Tallahassee not provide police escort services to military personnel who have lost their lives in service?”

Jay Townsend, Assistant City Manager for Safety and Neighborhood Services, provided the following information regarding our current practice.

The City of Tallahassee Police Department, in partnership with the Leon County Sheriff's Department, provide funeral escort services to men and women who are killed while serving on Active Duty in a war zone, if resources are available when the escort services are requested.

Sheriff Larry Campbell and Chief of Police Dennis Jones are both military veterans and understand the sacrifice made by members of the military and their families. As a result of a meeting held last year, Sheriff Campbell and Chief Jones both agreed to a cooperative effort between the agencies to facilitate honoring local members of the military, law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services who give their lives for their community. Active local military personnel who are killed while serving in a war zone will be provided a funeral escort based on available staffing from each agency.

Services for other than active duty personnel cannot be supported as escorts are manpower intensive, lead to overtime expenditures, and are inherently dangerous to law enforcement personnel and the general public. Although the City of Tallahassee cannot provide direct funeral services to past veterans, we still honor and respect their service to our nation.

☞ Summer Youth Employment Programs ☜

Nineteen youth from the Booker T. Washington Success Academy and Workforce Plus participated in the City's Summer Youth Sidewalk Program. The participants were recognized by the City Commission at our August 19 meeting ([agenda item #3](#)).



This unique employment and training opportunity offered them tools that promote personal and professional development, as well as a viable working trade in a real-world environment.



The comprehensive knowledge and experience offered will help participants gain a competitive advantage in today's job market.



City staff mentored and counseled youth to develop plans for further education, trade development, and employment goals based on this work experience.

“Serving is Leading”

🌀 Back to School Message 🌀

It takes a village to raise a child. Nurturing a child's learning can and should extend beyond the immediate family and the educational institution. Whether in pre-K, elementary, middle, high school, college level...it's imperative that each student be provided access to the tools and skills that will ignite their potential and help them realize their dreams.



Gillum speaks to attendees at the Marcelin & Mason 1st Annual Back to School Celebration

How can you help? Show up morally. Be present on the campus. Let the administration, faculty, and staff know that you support them and the students' efforts. Instill a mindset in the youth in your home and community that they can achieve anything they want to, if they put their mind to it.



Gillum, Wynonie R. Everett, her grandchildren Jaida and Jonathan @ M&M BTS Event

R. Frank Nims Middle School, the home of our Digital Harmony Program, has a curriculum model of "Follow Me To College" promoting college as an attainable goal. Kay Collins, Director of Admissions, and her team are preparing students to set their sites on higher education beyond middle and high school. This innovative concept and the support of community partners will help the students obtain competencies and confidence to matriculate to any technical school, college or university of their choice.

🌀 Volunteer To Be A Mentor 🌀

The students of R. Frank Nims Middle School located at 723 W. Orange Avenue will greatly benefit from having you as a positive role model to aid their learning opportunities. Contact **Rev. Alphonso B. Whitaker at Nims Middle School @ 488-5960** to obtain the volunteer/mentoring application and to register for the required training. Learn more about Leon County Schools Mentoring Program at www.leon.k12.fl.us.

Select orange tab: Community
Under Community Resources select: Volunteer & Mentor Information
Select: Mentor Program
Select: Mentor Program General Questions

Please Note: To be a Leon County School Mentor you MUST attend a training session and be fingerprinted. If you want to attend the training AND be fingerprinted the same day, you should allow 1½ hours to complete the process. There is no cost to the mentor for the fingerprint / background check.

🌀 September Calendar Events 🌀

"Subject to Change"

Date	Time	Events
9/7	Holiday	Labor Day
9/10	8 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
9/10	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
9/10	6 pm	Budget Public Hearing @ CHC
9/16	9 am – 12 pm	Office Appointments
9/21	11:30 am	CRA @ CHC
9/21	1 pm	Joint City/County Public Safety Complex Meeting
9/21	1:30 pm	CRTPA @ CHC
9/21	5 pm	Blueprint 2K @ CHC
9/23	9:30 am (TBC)	LRTI @ CH
9/23	11 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
9/23	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
9/23	6 pm	Final Budget Public Hearing @ CHC
9/29	6 pm (TBC)	Digital Harmony Open House @ Nims Middle School

Code:

CC – City Commission
CH – City Hall
CHC – City Hall Chambers
CRA – Community Redevelopment Agency
CRTPA – Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency
HHS – Health & Human Services Target Issue Committee
LRTI – Long Range Target Issue Committee

"Serving is Leading"