



# City of Gainesville

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Office of the Mayor

November 12, 2019

Statement from Mayor Lauren Poe:

The City of Gainesville was recently provided notice that Sen. Keith Perry and Rep. Chuck Clemons have asked the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee to conduct a comprehensive audit of our operational practices and managerial oversight.

Our doors and our books are open.

The politically motivated nature of this request is palpable and we are confident that most will see this move for exactly what it is — a thinly veiled attempt to play politics with the residents of Gainesville.

More troubling still are the factual inaccuracies put forth by Sen. Perry and Rep. Clemons in attempts to justify this waste of time and taxpayer dollars. The information contained within the letter to Chairman Jason Fischer was clearly not vetted or verified.

The letter states:

“The Interim City Manager, without informing the City Auditor, contracted for financial statement reconciliation purposes...”

**The email chain confirming the city auditor’s awareness and involvement in this process have been prepared and packaged for those who wish to review them.**

“Alarming findings by Gainesville’s external auditor Purvis Gray...”

**This is inflammatory and highly misleading information. There were no significant findings by an external auditor.**

The city proactively secured an external firm to do a deep dive into our financials in 2018 to ensure that we identified oversights and inefficiencies during a time of great transition and turnover in the finance department.

Audits are a management tool, used to provide guidance on how to improve operational efficiencies. We have diligently implemented recommendations received and we are confident in our financial integrity.

While we take issue with the motivations behind this request, we certainly welcome the opportunity to put to rest the baseless claims of a former employee and the caravan of characters who continually attempt to derail and diminish the good work we are doing here at the city.