Equity: A history of underinvestment

The City of Gainesville is about 56% non-Hispanic white, 22% Black, 12% Hispanic, 7% Asian, and more than 4% multi-racial or "other."[1] Most residents appreciate Gainesville's diversity, and value the many cultures that celebrate their special traditions, in our midst.

Like the rest of the country, with our diversity comes occasional and, in some cases systemic, challenges. Many of our neighborhoods are largely segregated by race, even more than by income. While historic Black neighborhoods take pride in their multi-generational roots, they also face challenges: Though Gainesville fares better than most cities, property values have not increased equally in majority white and majority African-American neighborhoods. Infrastructure, which was never adequate in historically African-American neighborhoods, is in need of repair, if it was installed at all. (Stormwater systems, for instances, were never installed in many eastern neighborhoods, and some believe potable water and electric utilities are undersized.) Neighborhood schools have suffered from decades of underinvestment as the City's property tax base migrated west. Shopping, health care, and other amenities have slowly moved west as well.

Historic black neighborhoods underserved

 As a result, many of Gainesville's eastern, mostly Black neighborhoods justifiably express concern that they have been left behind. This lack of resources may contribute to what some believe is an ongoing downward spiral, adversely impacting future generations in much of the community.

To learn more, visit our resource page, or suggest additional resources at neighbor@gainesvilleneighborhoodsunited.org

[1] United States Census, QuickFacts for Gainesville Florida, accessed December 14, 2020 at https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/gainesvillecityflorida