

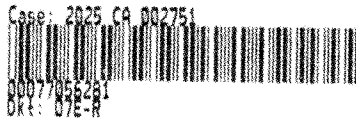
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Melanie Barr,
Petitioner,

v.

Case No.: 2025-CA-2751

CITY OF GAINESVILLE,
a Florida municipal corporation,
Respondent.



FILED
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2025 SEP 12 PM 4:33
CLERK OF COURT
ALACHUA COUNTY, FL

VERIFIED EMERGENCY PETITION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND MOTION
FOR STAY

COMES NOW Petitioner, Melanie Barr, and pursuant to Rule 1.610, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, respectfully petitions this Honorable Court for entry of an Emergency Temporary Restraining Order and Stay against the Respondent, the City of Gainesville, and states:

1. Jurisdiction and Venue. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to Article V, §5 of the Florida Constitution and Chapter 26, Florida Statutes. Venue is proper in Alachua County as the subject property, the Thelma Boltin Center ("the Center"), is located within this jurisdiction.

2. Parties.

- Petitioner is a resident, and taxpayer,
- Respondent is the City of Gainesville, a Florida municipal corporation.

3. Factual Background.

a. The Thelma Boltin Center is a historic structure of substantial cultural and community significance.

b. Respondent has announced imminent action to permanently and irreparably demolish the Center.

c. Petitioner will suffer irreparable harm absent immediate intervention by this Court, as once the building is destroyed, no subsequent relief can restore it.

4. Grounds for Relief.

a. Failure of Proper Notice. The City has failed to comply with its own codified requirement of providing a 90-day notice period before undertaking demolition of a historic structure.

b. Lack of timely public notice; the City Commission Agenda was published Friday, August 29, six days prior to the meeting, and citizens were not sent an email notice until 7:37 AM on Tuesday, September 2. The City Commission discussed the item on September 4 at 1:00 PM. Staff

recommendation was complete demolition, which reversed the course of the present path of renovation and preservation. Staff recommendation was not indicated in the email notice.

c. Pending Intergovernmental Request. The Alachua County Commission has formally requested that the City make an additional effort to explore restoration of the Center. Immediate demolition would render this request moot before it can be meaningfully considered.

e. Opportunity for Private Action. Private parties and preservation advocates are currently gathering resources to purchase and restore the Center. The City's rush to demolish forecloses this lawful and reasonable alternative.

5. Inadequacy of Legal Remedies. Money damages cannot compensate for the permanent destruction of a historic structure.

6. Likelihood of Success on the Merits. Petitioner is likely to prevail because the City failed to follow

its own procedural requirements and because preservation alternatives exist.

7. Balance of Equities. The harm to Petitioner and the public interest—irreversible destruction of a historic structure—far outweighs any administrative inconvenience to the City in delaying demolition.

8. Public Interest. Granting this Petition serves the public interest by preserving cultural heritage and ensuring governmental compliance with due process and procedural safeguards.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court:

A. Issue an emergency temporary restraining order immediately enjoining the City of Gainesville from proceeding with demolition of the Thelma Boltin Center;

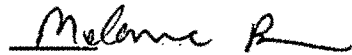
B. Issue a stay of any such demolition action pending further hearing on a preliminary injunction;

C. Set this matter for expedited hearing; and

D. Grant such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Barr
216 NE 5th Street
Gainesville FL 32601



VERIFICATION

I Melanie Barr, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

x 

September 12, 2025

I affirm that I have provided a copy of this petition to the City of Gainesville, 200 E. University Avenue, Gainesville FL 32601 on September 12, 2025 by hand delivery.