



NEWS RELEASE



ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Weed and Seed Grant:

The cities of Newberry and Archer will join together to form the Archer/Newberry Weed and Seed Community. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is applying for a five year grant worth up to one million dollars to assist with this venture.

Weed and Seed is a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and is a comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. Weed and Seed aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. The strategy is a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers and public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much-needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs. A community-oriented policing component bridges the weeding and seeding elements.

At each site, the relevant U.S. Attorney's Office plays a leadership role in organizing local officials, community representatives, and other key stakeholders to form a steering committee. The U.S. Attorney's Office also facilitates coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts so that sites effectively use federal law enforcement partners in weeding strategies. In some instances, the U.S. Attorney's Office helps sites mobilize resources from a variety of federal agencies for seeding programs.

Both Newberry and Archer will hold their regularly scheduled City Commission meetings on July 23, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. Sheriff Darnell and representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office and the DEA will be attending the Newberry meeting first, before traveling to the Archer meeting.