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MEETING NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **September 28, 2017**. The meeting will be held at the **Lake City Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida**. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at **7:00 p.m.**

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

*Please call the Council at 352.955.2200, or 800.226.0690, or email strong@ncfrpc.org by September 25, 2017 to let us know if you will be attending the meeting. (You can call after hours and leave a message on voice mail too.) **THANK YOU.***

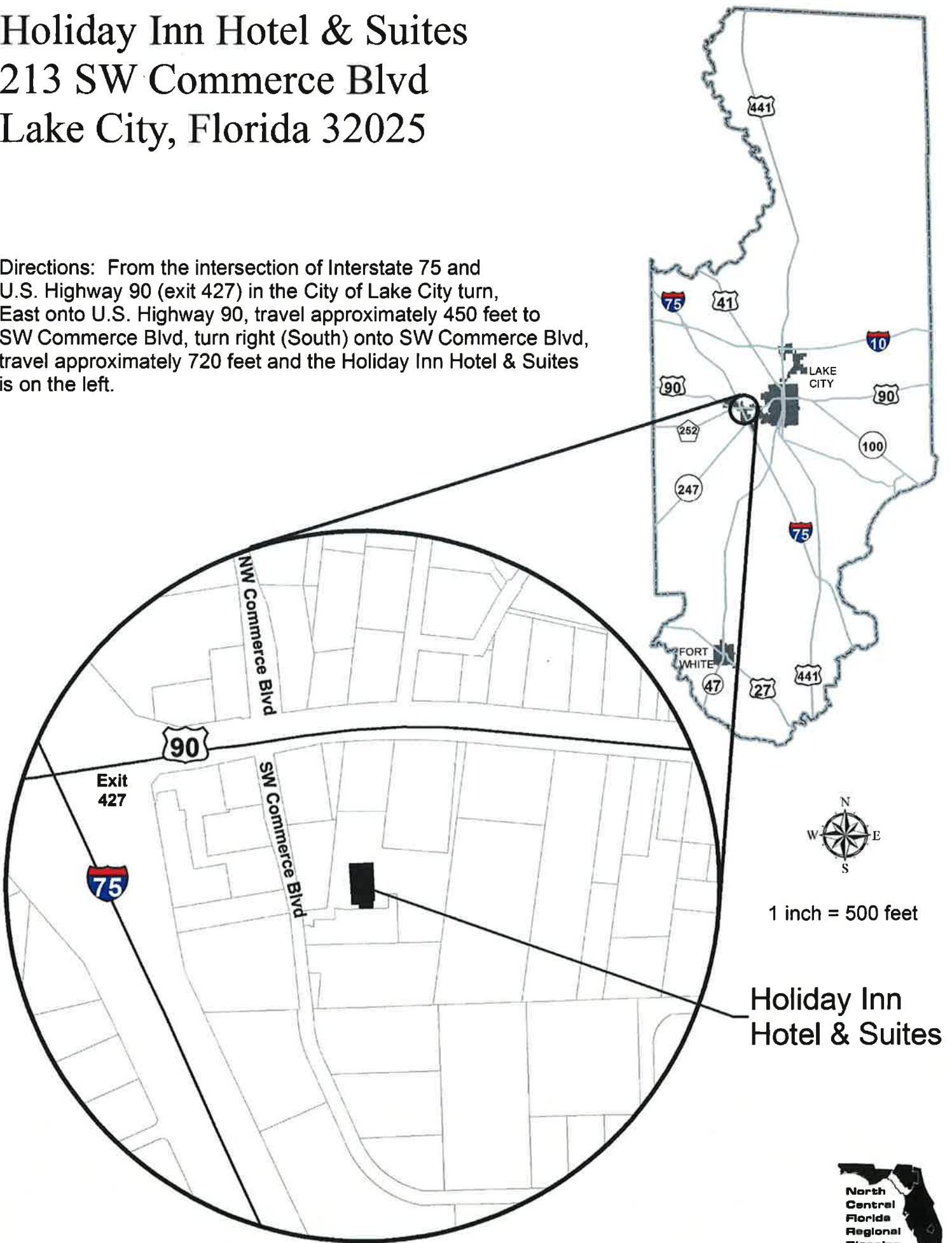
(Location Map on Back)

Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.





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AGENDA

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard
Lake City, Florida

September 28, 2017
7:00 p.m.

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* B. Clearinghouse Committee

Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

1. #102 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 17-3ESR)
2. #103 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 17- 1ESR)
3. #105 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Drat Amendment (DEO No. 17-1ER)
4. #106 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 17-1ESR)

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee - Adoption of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2018-2022 47

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This agenda item provides an opportunity for citizens to address the Council on any matter not included on the agenda. The comment period is limited to three minutes for each individual.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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* See Attachments

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

August 24, 2017
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patricia Bouie, City of Hawthorne
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
James Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
William Hunter, Hamilton County
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Barney Bennett, Florida Department
of Transportation
Sean Greene, Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Katelyn Potter, Suwannee River
Water Management District
James Troiano, St. Johns Water
Management District

COUNCIL ATTORNEY

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
David Arreola, City of Gainesville
Harvey Budd, City of Gainesville
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Rick Coleman, City of Newberry
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Jason Evans, City of High Springs
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Daniel Webb, Union County
Mike Williams, Madison County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp
Diana Davis
Brian Kaufman
Stew Lilker
Joseph Riddick
Patrick Simeone
Donna Wise

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp
Michael Escalante
Scott Koons
Jean Strong
Tara Tucker

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Wilford and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Thomas stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas welcomed and introduced Brian Kaufmann, County Coordinator from Madison County; Sandra Buck-Camp, member of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Joseph Riddick, former Council member and father of Commissioner Daniel Riddick; Patrick Simeone, citizen from Lee County; Diana Davis, wife of Council member Louie Davis and Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Thomas asked that Item VIII.A. - Proclamation Declaring September 24, 2017 as James Montgomery Day in the north central Florida region and Item VIII.B.4. #74 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment be added to the agenda and approve the agenda, as amended.

ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks, to add Item VIII.A. - a Proclamation Declaring September 24, 2017 as James Montgomery Day in north central Florida region and Item VIII.B.4. #74 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment to the agenda and approve the agenda, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. ATTORNEY-CLIENT SESSION

Chair Thomas stated at this time, that the Council would be convening for an Attorney-Client Session concerning the public records lawsuit brought by HPS Enterprises II, LLC against the Council. She further stated that the only persons that can be in attendance at the Attorney-Client Session are voting Council members, the Council Attorney, the Executive Director and a court reporter.

Chair Thomas also stated that a verbatim transcript of the Attorney-Client Session will be prepared and will become public record at the conclusion of the legal proceedings that are the subject of the Attorney-Client Session. She stated that it is anticipated that the Attorney-Client Session will last approximately 30 minutes. Chair Thomas further stated at the conclusion of the Attorney-Client Session the regular Council meeting would resume. She then stated that the regular Council meeting was in recess and asked persons not eligible to attend the Attorney-Client Session to leave the meeting room.

At this time, the Council held an Attorney-Client Session to discuss the public records lawsuit brought by HPS Enterprises II, LLC against the Council with the following persons in attendance - Council voting members: Patricia Bouie, LaBarfield Bryant, James Catron, Charles Chestnut, IV, Ken Cornell, Louie Davis, Rick Davis, Thomas Demps, Fletcher Hope, William Hunter, John Meeks, Janice Mortimer, Tim Murphy, Garth Nobles, Jr., Daniel Riddick, Larry Sessions, James Tallman, Kendrick Thomas, Lorene Thomas, and Robert Wilford; Jonathan Wershow, Council Attorney; Scott Koons, Executive Director; and Donna Wise, court reporter.

Following the conclusion of the Attorney-Client Session, the regular Council meeting was reconvened.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 27, 2017

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - March 2017
- B. Local Government Comprehensive Planning Assistance Service Agreements
Fiscal Year 2017-18
- C. Hazardous Waste Monitoring Verification and Notification Service Agreements
Fiscal Year 2017-18

Chair Thomas asked if there were any questions regarding the items on the Consent Agenda and requested that these items be approved.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT - Certificates of Service for Council Employee

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Michael Escalante, who has been an employee of the Council for 30 years and currently serves as Senior Planner for Transportation Planning. Chair Thomas presented a 30-year Certificate of Service and pin to him. Mr. Koons and Chair Thomas thanked him for his years of dedicated service to the Council.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee - Proclamation Declaring September 24, 2017 James Montgomery Day

Mr. Koons stated that in recognition of the service of James Montgomery to the North Florida Regional Planning Council, a proclamation declaring September 24, 2017 as James Montgomery Day in the north central Florida region is recommended by the Executive Committee for approval by the Council. He stated that Mr. Montgomery served on the Council from 1975 to 2004 as a member representing the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County. Mr. Koons noted that in 2010 Mr. Montgomery was appointed as a gubernatorial appointee from Columbia County. He further noted that Mr. Montgomery has provided 38 years of distinguished leadership and service to the Council and his 38 years of service is the longest of any member of the Council since its creation in 1969.

Mr. Koons further stated that Mr. Montgomery has served three times as Chair of the Council. He noted that Mr. Montgomery currently serves as Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, a member of the Regional Planning Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the Council. Mr. Koons stated that Mr. Montgomery will be recognized and honored as man for all seasons for his many years of service as a teacher for the Columbia County School System, an instructor for Florida Gateway College, a member of the First Presbyterian Church and for his service on innumerable civic boards, committees and projects on September 24, 2017 at the James Montgomery Appreciation Day to be held at 3:00 p.m. at the Columbia County Fairgrounds.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cornell to approve a proclamation declaring September 24, 2017 as James Montgomery Day in north central Florida region. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Chestnut, Clearinghouse Committee member, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #98 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #99 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #100 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Commissioner Chestnut stated subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packet, the Council received the following late-arriving item which require action prior to the next meeting.

- #101 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

He reported that the Committee finds that that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, are not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments.

Commissioner Chestnut stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Chestnut made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wilford, to approve the Committee recommendation concerning Item #98 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment; Item #99 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment; #100 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; and #101 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Barney Bennett, Florida Department of Transportation, District 2, stated the Department will be holding a Local Agency Program Workshop for local governments on August 29, 2017 in Lake City and that Department Tentative Five-Year Work Program public hearings will be held on October 19, 2017 at the Department Urban Area Office in Jacksonville and on October 24, 2017 at the Department District 2 Office in Lake City.

Katelyn Potter, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that the District recently awarded \$1.4 million to local governments for river projects and will be awarding \$16.4 million to local governments for springs projects.

James Troiano, St. Johns Water Management District, discussed the District Black Creek Water Resource Development project in the Keystone Heights area.

Sean Greene, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission stated that the Commission is currently updating the State Wildlife Action Plan.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. He stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the July 2017 activities report included in the Council meeting packet.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to develop a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. He further stated that the Scorecard reports metrics related to each of the Six Pillars. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the August 2017 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Regional Dispute Resolution Process

Mr. Koons stated that the Council received a request for an informal pre-initiation meeting as specified in Chapter 29C-8 from Alachua County concerning a comprehensive plan amendment challenge the County has filed against the City of Gainesville which is currently the subject of an administrative hearing proceeding. He further stated that Council staff met with County staff on August 15, 2017 for the informal pre-initiation meeting to ascertain whether the process is appropriate for resolving the above referenced dispute.

Mr. Koons stated it was determined at the informal pre-initiation meeting that the process would be appropriate for resolving the above referenced dispute and the next step in the process is for the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners to consider the adoption of a resolution to formally initiate the process.

D. Public Records Complaint

Council Attorney Jonathon Wershow recommended that the Council settle the public records lawsuit brought against the Council by HPS Enterprises II, LLC for the amount of \$17,000.

ACTION: Mr. Hunter made a motion, with a second by Commissioner Catron to settle the public records lawsuit brought by HPS Enterprises II, LLC against the Council provided that the stipulated settlement agreement states that the Council does not acknowledge any violation of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, concerning public records.

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell made a substitute motion, with a second by Commissioner Tallman to continue to litigate the public records lawsuit brought by HPS Enterprises II, LLC against the Council and issue a press release concerning such action.

Following discussion by the Council, Commissioner Davis called the question to terminate debate.

ACTION: Vote on call for question to terminate debate by Commissioner Davis. Call for question to terminate debate passed with 19 ayes and one nay.

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell's substitute motion, with a second by Commissioner Tallman to continue to litigate the public records lawsuit brought by HPS Enterprises II, LLC against the Council and issue a press release concerning such action did not pass with three ayes and 17 nays.

ACTION: Mr. Hunter's motion, with a second by Commissioner Catron to settle the public records lawsuit brought by HPS Enterprises II, LLC against the Council provided that the stipulated settlement agreement states that the Council does not acknowledge any violation of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, concerning public records passed with 17 ayes and three nays.

E. Florida Job Growth Grant Program

Mr. Koons reviewed the \$85 million new Florida Job Growth Grant Program enacted by the Legislative during the Special Legislative Session held in June 2017. He noted funds can be used for either infrastructure or workforce development. Mr. Koons also reported that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has received 97 applications totaling \$302 million to date.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on September 28, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

9/28/17
Date



PROCLAMATION

DECLARING SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 AS JAMES MONTGOMERY DAY

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is a multi-county association of local governments dedicated to improving the quality of life of the citizens of north central Florida by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments;

WHEREAS, James Montgomery has provided 38 years of distinguished leadership and service representing the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida and the Governor of the State of Florida on the Council;

WHEREAS, James Montgomery is the longest serving member on the North Central Regional Planning Council since its creation in 1969;

WHEREAS, James Montgomery has served as Chair of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council in 1983-84, 1994-95, and 2001-03;

WHEREAS, James Montgomery currently serves as Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, a member of the Regional Planning Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; and

WHEREAS, James Montgomery will be recognized and honored as man for all seasons for his many years of service as a teacher for the Columbia County School System, an instructor for Florida Gateway College, a member of the First Presbyterian Church and for his service on innumerable civic boards, committees and projects on September 24, 2017.


NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the outstanding contributions made to Columbia County and the citizens of north central Florida by James Montgomery as a dedicated public servant and civic leader, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares September 24, 2017 as James Montgomery Day throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of August 2017.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL


Louie Davis
Secretary-Treasurer


Lorene J. Thomas
Chair



VI.A.

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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report - August 2017

Please find attached a copy of the Monthly Financial Report for the Council's activities for August 2017. The following paragraphs discuss revenues and expenditures to the budget for the month and year to date.

Revenue

The total revenue for the Council for year to date is within budgeted figures. Revenue at the end of 11 months is 74 percent of budget.

Expenditures

The total expenditures for the Council for year to date are within budgeted figures. Total expenditures at the end of 11 months is 90 percent of budget.

Conclusion

In conclusion, staff is pleased with the financial condition of the Council. The adjusted general fund balance should remain at an acceptable level at the end of the fiscal year.

Overall, as is regularly reported, the financial condition of the Council is sound. Staff is not aware of anything in the current fiscal year that will change this situation.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
August 31, 2017

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking / Savings	1,150,156
Accounts Receivable	519,822
Other Current Assets	30,370

Total Current Assets	<u>1,700,348</u>
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TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,700,348</u>
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	13,636
Other Current Liabilities	292,505

Total Liabilities	<u>306,141</u>
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Equity	<u>1,394,207</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,700,348</u>
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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
August 31, 2017

SUMMARY STATEMENT

	Adopted Budget FY 2016-17	August 2017	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Revenue	1,905,300	938	1,403,374	74%
Expenses	1,905,300	200,842	1,711,085	90%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)

August 31, 2017

REVENUE

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2016-17	August 2017	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Program Development	29,800	938	22,876	77%
Regional Planning		0		
State Planning & Review	110,000	0	67,258	61%
		0		
Public Safety & Regulatory Compliance		0		
Hazardous Waste Monitoring	58,900	0	0	0%
Local Emergency Planning Committee	129,200	0	67,098	52%
Hazards Analyses	18,500	0	16,754	91%
Local Mitigation Strategies	10,500	0	0	0%
Coastal Flooding		0	5,000	
Homeland Security Activities		0	16,000	
		0		
Transportation		0		
Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Planning	368,100	0	276,075	75%
Gainesville Urbanized Area Mass Transit	203,300	0	135,534	67%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County	24,100	0	17,883	74%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Region	192,700	0	148,629	77%
		0		
Economic Development		0		
Comp Econ Development Strategy & Tech Assistance	153,000	0	105,822	69%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing	59,400	0	18,825	32%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	274,100	0	205,512	75%
Vision North Central Florida		0	2,500	
		0		
Local Government Assistance		0		
General Technical Services	30,000	0	18,357	61%
City & County Planning Services	243,700	0	279,251	115%
Total Revenue	1,905,300	938	1,403,374	74%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)

August 31, 2017

EXPENDITURES

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2016-17	August 2017	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Audit	18,000	0	15,500	86%
Building Occupancy & Grounds	40,000	2,518	30,908	77%
Contractual Services	48,000	21,464	152,551	318%
Dues, Publications & Subscriptions	54,000	2,182	64,906	120%
Furniture & Equipment	15,000	0	0	0%
Insurance and Bonding	21,000	0	15,320	73%
Legal Costs	14,000	18,886	25,687	183%
Machine Rental/Maintenance	5,000	0	4,606	92%
Meeting Expenses	19,000	1,350	13,626	72%
Moving Expense	2,000	0	0	0%
Office Supplies	25,000	2,345	16,876	68%
Personnel Costs	1,153,700	135,958	1,076,162	93%
Postage	6,000	245	4,367	73%
Printing	2,000	0	2,087	104%
Recruiting	2,000	0	0	0%
Reproduction	15,000	505	12,596	84%
Telephone	7,000	457	4,136	59%
Travel	83,000	7,711	69,397	84%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	274,100	7,221	202,360	74%
Contingency	101,500	0	0	0%
Total Expenses	1,905,300	200,842	1,711,085	90%




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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: North Florida Economic Development Partnership
Experience North Florida Sponsorship

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Council being a Titanium Level Sponsor for the North Florida Economic Development Partnership *Experience North Florida* event in the amount of \$1,000.

BACKGROUND:

As you know, the North Florida Economic Development Partnership is the public-private partnership that promotes economic development in the 14-county North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity. This area includes Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties in the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council region as well as Baker, Jefferson and Putnam Counties.

The Partnership is conducting an event entitled *Experience North Florida* at the Bienville Plantation in White Springs, FL on November 1-3, 2017. The purpose of the event is to connect site location consultants representing north Florida targeted industries with economic development professionals, state and regional project managers, state and local elected officials, corporate business leaders and other key decision-makers committed to attracting investment to the region.

The Partnership is soliciting sponsorships to underwrite the cost of the event. It is recommended that the Council be a sponsor at the Titanium Level for \$1,000. This level of sponsorship entitles the Council to have one attendee participate in all group functions and have the Council logo featured on all event printed materials, website and on-site signage.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

SUBJECT: Executive Director Elected First Vice-President of the
National Association of Development Organizations

Our executive director, Scott Koons, has been elected First Vice-President of the National Association of Development Organizations.

The National Association of Development Organizations provides advocacy, education, research and training to a national network of 520 regional development organizations primarily serving small metropolitan and rural regions. The Association is an advocate for federal programs and policies that promote regional strategies and solutions for addressing local community and economic development needs. The National Association of Development Organizations and the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation identify and promote best practices, analyze the impact of federal policies and programs on regional development organizations and local communities, and examine the latest trends and developments in the field of regional community and economic development.

As the premier organization for the executive leaders and professional staff of the nation's regional development organizations, the National Association of Development Organizations and its members have worked together since 1967 to promote the regional cooperation of local governments and communities. In 1988, the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation was founded to serve as the research and professional development affiliate of the Association.

Congratulations to Scott.

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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proclamation Declaring October 2017 as Community Planning Month

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached proclamation declaring October 2017 as Community Planning Month in the north central Florida region.

BACKGROUND:

The month of October 2017 has been designated to celebrate National Community Planning Month. The American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, endorse National Community Planning Month as an opportunity to highlight the contributions sound planning and plan implementation make to the quality of life in communities and the environment.

It is recommended that the Council join in the celebration of National Community Planning Month by proclaiming October 2017 as Community Planning Month to recognize the valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners and to extend its thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals (see attached Proclamation).

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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PROCLAMATION

DECLARING OCTOBER 2017 AS COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

WHEREAS, change is constant and affects all cities, towns, suburbs, counties, rural areas, regions, and other places; and

WHEREAS, community planning and plans can help manage this change in a way that provides better choices for how people work and live; and

WHEREAS, community planning provides an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in making choices that determine the future of their community; and

WHEREAS, the full benefits of planning requires public officials and citizens who understand, support, and demand excellence in planning and plan implementation; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2017 is designated as National Community Planning Month throughout the United States of America and its territories; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the participation and dedication of the members of planning and zoning boards and other citizen planners who have contributed their time and expertise to the improvement of the north central Florida region; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the many valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners in the north central Florida region and extend our heartfelt thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the month of October 2017 as ***Community Planning Month*** throughout the north central Florida region in conjunction with the celebration of National Community Planning Month.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 28th day of September 2017.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Robert W. Wilford
Secretary-Treasurer

Lorene J. Thomas
Chair



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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Proclamation Declaring October 6, 2017 as Manufacturing Day

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached proclamation declaring October 6, 2017 as Manufacturing Day in the north central Florida region.

BACKGROUND:

The Fabrication and Manufactures Association International, the National Association of Manufactures, the U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Manufacturing Institute have designated the first Friday of October as Manufacturing Day.

This year October 6, 2017 has been designated to celebrate Manufacturing Day. Manufacturing Day is an effective way to highlight the importance of manufacturing in our region and support those manufacturing and school programs that prepare our workforce.

It is recommended that the Council join in the celebration of Manufacturing Day by proclaiming October 6, 2017 as Manufacturing Day to recognize the impact manufacturing has on north central Florida region (see attached Proclamation).

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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PROCLAMATION

DECLARING OCTOBER 6, 2017 AS MANUFACTURING DAY

WHEREAS, the Fabrication and Manufactures Association International, the National Association of Manufactures, the U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Manufacturing Institute have designated the first Friday of October as Manufacturing Day;

WHEREAS, the goals of Manufacturing Day are to celebrate the impact manufacturing has on the north central Florida region, increase awareness about the benefits of a manufacturing career and attract students to future manufacturing jobs;

WHEREAS, recognizing Manufacturing Day is an effective way to highlight the importance of manufacturing in our region and support those manufacturing and school programs that prepare our future workforce;

WHEREAS, over 300 manufacturers provide jobs for over 12,000 citizens throughout the region and create products ranging from pulp and lumber products to fire rescue vehicles to orthopedic implant devices;

WHEREAS, regional companies and education/workforce partners support manufacturing and manufacturing careers through increased collaboration and service to the regional manufacturing community;

WHEREAS, manufacturing brings increased economic diversity to our region by providing high paying jobs at all skill levels and furthering the standard of living by focusing on technology, innovation and production;

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims October 6, 2017 as ***Manufacturing Day*** in the north central Florida region and the Council urges all citizens to discover the value manufacturing brings to our economy and encourages students and educators to learn about the possibility of manufacturing as a career.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 28th day of September 2017.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Robert W. Wilford
Secretary-Treasurer

Lorene J. Thomas
Chair



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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proclamation Declaring October 23-29, 2017 as Florida City Government Week

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached proclamation declaring October 23-29, 2017 as Florida City Government Week in the north central Florida region.

The Florida League of Cities has designated the week of October 23-29, 2017 as Florida City Government Week. The League encourages cities to promote their cities through civic education activities.

Florida City Government Week is part of an ongoing effort sponsored by the League to raise public awareness about services that cities perform and to educate the public about how city government works. Cities are encouraged to involve their local schools, businesses, media and civic clubs in their Florida City Government Week activities.

It is recommended that the Council join in the recognition of city government by proclaiming the week of October 23-29, 2017 as Florida City Government Week (see attached Proclamation).

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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PROCLAMATION

DECLARING OCTOBER 23-29, 2017 AS FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, city government is the government closest to most citizens; and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, this week offers important opportunity to spread the word to all citizens of Florida that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all citizens of Florida that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of October 23-29, 2017 as Florida City Government Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 28th day of September 2017.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Robert W. Wilford
Secretary-Treasurer

Lorene J. Thomas
Chair



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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Engagement Letter for Fiscal Year 2016-17 Audit

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Chair to execute an engagement letter with the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, of Lake City to conduct the Fiscal Year 2016-17 audit of the Council's accounts for a lump sum fee for this service of \$15,801, with the understanding that this engagement includes an audit of the Council's Employee Pension Plan for the same fiscal year.

BACKGROUND:

As you know, the Council selects an auditor for a three-year period, with the condition that an engagement letter be approved each year to ensure that the auditor is conducting the audits in an acceptable manner. The current auditor was selected in 2016 and has conducted one audit under this series. Therefore, it is recommended that a second engagement letter be entered into for the audit of Fiscal Year 2016-17.

The proposed letter of engagement is attached for your information. The lump sum fee has been set at \$15,801 in accordance with the proposal made by the auditor to adjust the fee each year in an amount equal to the percent increase/decrease of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, not to exceed five percent each year. This fee is \$301 more than the fee charged for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 audit.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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Powell & Jones
Certified Public Accountants

Richard C. Powell, Jr., CPA
Marian Jones Powell, CPA

1359 S.W. Main Blvd.
Lake City, Florida 32025
386 / 755-4200
Fax: 386 / 719-5504
admin@powellandjonescpa.com

September 20 2017

Ms. Lorene Thomas, Chair
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
For the Gainesville Urbanized Area
2009 N.W. 67th Place, Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area for the year ended September 30, 2017. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area as of and for the year ended September 30, 2017. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.
- 2) Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole, in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements:

- 3) Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. The objective also includes reporting on—

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states that (1) the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue written reports upon completion of our Single Audit. Our reports will be addressed to management and the Board of Director of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

Audit Procedures—General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of

laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and the Uniform Guidance based on information provided by you. These non-audit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes services previously defined. We, in our sole professional

judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for (1) establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance, (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. Management is also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, or abuse that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review on September 30, 2017.

You are responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to [include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon OR make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon]. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4)

you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes, and any other non-audit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the non-audit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We may from time to time, and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Powell and Jones, CPA and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Powell and Jones, CPA's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by a federal agency. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the parties contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

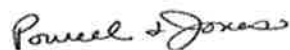
We expect to begin our audit on approximately January 15, 2018, and to issue our reports no later than April 1, 2018 unless extended by the Organization. Richard C. Powell, Jr. is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them.

Terms for fees, time frames for audits and renewals are contained in our separate "Proposal for Audit Services". The fee for the current year audit will be \$15,801.

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, and any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comment received during the period of our contract. Our 2014 peer review report is available upon request.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,



Powell and Jones, CPAs

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Gainesville Urbanized Area.

Management signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Governance signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____



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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

SUBJECT: Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation

The employment contract between the Executive Director and the Council specifies that the Executive Committee shall adopt performance standards to annually review and evaluate the Executive Director. It further specifies that the annual review and evaluation of the Executive Director shall be conducted by the Executive Committee. It also specifies that at its discretion, the Executive Committee is authorized to provide a merit increase to the Executive Director on an annual basis commencing October 1st of each year.

The Executive Committee has adopted performance standards to review and evaluate the Executive Director. An evaluation form incorporating these performance standards was mailed to each Executive Committee member to be completed prior to the September 28, 2017 Council meeting. The results of this evaluation have been tabulated by Council administrative staff and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on September 28, 2017. The action of the Executive Committee concerning the Executive Director annual performance evaluation and merit pay adjustment will be reported to the Council at the September 28, 2017 meeting.

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VIII.B.

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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: James Montgomery, Chair
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

I. COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., September 28, 2017 at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 213 SW Commerce Boulevard, Lake City. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level items which require Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- #102 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 17-3ESR)
- #103 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment DEO No. 17-1ESR)
- #105 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 17-1ER)
- #106 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment DEO No. 17-1ESR)

Please be advised that the Clearinghouse Committee meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on Clearinghouse Committee Full Packet).

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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Adoption of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report - 2018-2022

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2017-13 adopting the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 and authorize that it be submitted to the U. S. Economic Development Administration.

BACKGROUND:

Every five years, the Council prepares an update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for submission to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to meet our contractual obligations with that agency, and to qualify our counties for funding under its economic development program.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee met July 10, 2017 to prioritize priority project areas. Projects must be regional in nature, must be connected to jobs (usually 100 jobs or more) and must include private investment, and can be funded through either planning grants or construction grants from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. A 30-day public comment period on the draft Strategy ended on August 31, 2017. No comments were received concerning the draft Strategy.

Please find attached Resolution No. 2017-13 adopting the Strategy 2018-2022, the Executive Summary, Goals and Objectives, Plan of Action, and Priority Project Areas for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The priority project areas recommended by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee are listed below.

1. Talent Supply & Education

Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industry.

2. Innovation & Economic Development

- a. Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity.
- b. Support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks.

3. Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

Support continuing improvements to multi-modal infrastructure, including highway interchanges along interstate corridors, railway corridors, airport facilities and broadband infrastructure.

4. Business Climate & Competitiveness

- a. Support streamlining processes at the local level to encourage new businesses to open and help existing businesses thrive.
- b. Educate government and businesses on continuity and recovery plans in the event of natural or man-made disasters to address workforce retention and ensure access to loan and assistance programs.

5. Civic & Governance Systems

Support programs to educate local government officials in the fundamentals of economic development.

6. Quality of Life & Quality Places

Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\ceds final report 2018-22.docx

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL ADOPTING THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2018-2022; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council was designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration an economic development district; and

WHEREAS, economic development districts are required to prepare, adopt and maintain a comprehensive economic development strategy to guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of their region; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive economic development strategy qualifies the region and local governments located within the region for federal assistance under Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Act programs; and

WHEREAS, economic development districts are required to update their comprehensive economic development strategies at least every five years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby adopts the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022, dated September 28, 2017, and said strategy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part hereof; and

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that all resolutions or portions of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict; and

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that this resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 28th day of September 2017.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2018-2022

September 2017

Grant Period: January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019
This document has been prepared with financial assistance
from the U.S. Economic Development Administration

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603
352.955.2200

Adopted (To Be Determined)

DRAFT 09.28.17

Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has served as the North Central Florida Economic Development District since January 1978, when the Council received its district designation from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Counties that are members of the Council and the municipalities located within those counties are included in the North Central Florida Economic Development District, and are designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as redevelopment areas and are eligible for financial assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

"The Regional Planning Council is a federally designated Economic Development District."

The primary function of the North Central Florida Economic Development District is to create and update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy provides the framework by which economic development projects in the region qualify for grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The Strategy is developed by the Strategy Committee which is comprised of a broad range of regional economic development, business, civic, education and workforce development professionals.

"The Strategy is based upon the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy."

The following report provides a description of current economic and demographic conditions of the region, an analysis of regional strengths and weaknesses and an analysis of regional industry clusters. The report also

lists the economic development goals and objectives as well as the Priority Project Areas developed by the Strategy Committee. The report includes a plan of action that outlines the activities necessary to implement the goals and objectives of the Strategy.

The Strategy uses the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy as the organizing framework. The Six Pillars are: Talent Supply & Education; Innovation & Economic Development; Infrastructure & Growth Leadership; Business Climate & Competitiveness; Civic & Governance Systems; and Quality of Life & Quality Places.



Commerce and Retail Center of Region, Gainesville



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Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



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Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

A. Background

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is a continuing regional economic development planning process with broad based community participation designed to help guide the economic growth of the region. The purpose of the Strategy is to create an economic environment that fosters job creation, a more **resilient and** diversified economy, and improves the quality of life for the residents of the North Central Florida Economic Development District. The Strategy provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of local governments, private industry, organizations and individuals concerned with economic development.

"The Strategy is a continuing economic development planning process."



Santa Fe College Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center

The Strategy is developed by a committee appointed by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. The members of the Strategy Committee represent a broad spectrum of interests, including: local economic development organizations; private industry; local governments; education and workforce; civic organizations; minority and special interest groups. The Strategy Committee meets to discuss progress on elements of the Strategy, and to make

"The Strategy is developed by a broad spectrum of public and private interests."

recommendations for amendments to the Strategy based on changes to the economic environment.

In addition to providing a cooperative framework for economic development coordination and planning, the Strategy also provides:

- An analysis of economic and community development problems and opportunities that incorporate relevant material from other government sponsored or supported plans;
- A background and history of the economic development situation of the region, with a discussion of the economy, including geography, population, labor force, resources and the environment;
- A discussion of community participation in the planning efforts;
- A section setting forth goals and objectives for taking advantage of the opportunities and solving the economic development problems of the area serviced;
- A plan of action, including suggested projects to implement objectives and goals set forth in the strategy; and
- Performance measures that will be used to evaluate whether and to what extent goals and objectives have been or are being met.

"The Strategy is required to qualify for federal economic development funds."

The development and maintenance of the Strategy is required to qualify for U.S. Economic Development Administration assistance under its public works, economic adjustment and planning programs, and is a prerequisite for designation by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District. Since 1978, the North Central Florida Regional Planning

Council has served as the designated planning agency for the North Central Florida Economic Development District.

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council region includes 52 county and municipal governments. The 12 counties include Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union. The 38 municipalities include (by County): Alachua - Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, LaCrosse, Micanopy, Newberry and Waldo; Bradford - Brooker, Hampton,



North Central Florida Counties and Municipalities



Lawtey and Starke; Columbia - Fort White and Lake City; Dixie - Cross City and Horseshoe Beach; Gilchrist - Bell, Fanning Springs and Trenton; Hamilton - Jasper, White Springs and Jennings; Lafayette - Mayo; Levy - Bronson, Cedar Key, Chiefland, Inglis, Otter Creek, Williston and Yankeetown; Madison - Greenville, Lee and Madison; Suwannee - Live Oak and Branford; Taylor - Perry; Union - Lake Butler, Raiford and Worthington Springs.

The North Central Florida Economic Development District has a total of 7,869 square miles and is bordered on the west by the Gulf of Mexico and on the north by the Florida-Georgia state line. With the exception of Alachua County, the region is primarily rural, with a 2015 Bureau of Economic and Business Research-estimated population of just over 540,000. Just under one-half of the population, 271,732, resides in the Gainesville Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Alachua and Gilchrist Counties.



Suwannee River, Lafayette County

Gainesville is home to the University of Florida, a land grant university, which is the primary economic driver of the region. Unlike many other regions of the state, north central Florida does not have beaches or theme parks, though it has a growing nature and eco-tourism base that takes advantage of the abundant presence of springs and rivers that flow through the region.

The regional climate is very temperate with summer high temperatures averaging in the low to mid nineties and winter low temperatures averaging in the low to mid forties. Record high temperatures have reached the low hundreds. Hard freezes are infrequent, with record low temperatures in the low teens. Average annual rainfall is approximately 50 inches. Hurricanes are a major source of concern throughout Florida. The remote coastal communities of the region are at the greatest risk for storm surge related flooding. However, the primary hurricane threats to most of the population centers of the region are from wind damage and rain induced local flooding.

While largely rural, the region benefits from an extensive transportation network. Interstate 75 is the primary north/south transportation artery that connects the region to central and south Florida, as well as the Southeastern U.S. and Midwest U.S. to the north. Interstate 10 is the east/west transportation artery that connects the region to Jacksonville on the east and the Florida panhandle and Alabama to the west. Rail service in the region is provided by CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern and other providers. Although the

"The region benefits from an extensive transportation network."

region is not home to a deepwater port, Columbia County will be host to an inland port facility that will be part of the Port of Jacksonville's international trade zone. There are numerous airport facilities in the region with substantial runway infrastructure. Currently, the Gainesville Regional Airport is the only airport with scheduled commercial service.

The economy of the region has proven relatively stable in relation to other areas of the state and nation. While the region has been negatively affected by the national economic downturn, overall it has fared better than many other areas, with lower unemployment rates, rising trade exports and steadily rising Gross Domestic Product. State and local government, especially in education and prisons, remains a significant though declining share of employment in the region. Health care is the second largest employment cluster in the region, followed by retail trade.



Forestry Products, Suwannee County & Taylor County

"The region is becoming known as an innovation center."

the University of Florida as the top performing public institution at transferring its research to the marketplace, and fifth in the nation overall. Companies launched at the Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator have attracted over one-half billion dollars in private investments, contracts and grants. An estimated 16 percent of all biotech companies in Florida got their start at the Sid Martin facility.

The region is rapidly becoming known as an innovation center due to the success of the Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator in Alachua and the emergence of the Florida Innovation Hub at the University of Florida in Gainesville. A 2006 study by the Milken Institute identified



Florida Gateway College, Lake City



North Central Florida Tropical Storms
hurricanes and tropical storms. The 2011 North Central Florida Economic and Disaster Resiliency Study completed by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council indicates that a Category 5 hurricane striking the region from the Gulf of Mexico could potentially result in a 46.6 percent loss to regional capital structure (building damage), a 38.8 percent regionwide job loss and a 34.0 percent population loss.

Each local government within the region has adopted an Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which provides a detailed description of the process to be followed at the local level whenever an emergency or disaster occurs as a result of natural or manmade causes.

"The economy of the region is vulnerable to both natural and man-made disasters."



Hazardous Materials Training

programs, conducting emergency response exercises, providing public information campaigns and other activities aimed at minimizing risks from hazardous materials releases.

Under contract with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council serves as staff to the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee. The Committee is responsible for the preparation of local emergency response plans for hazardous materials releases for the district. In addition to the emergency response plan, the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee is also involved in establishing training

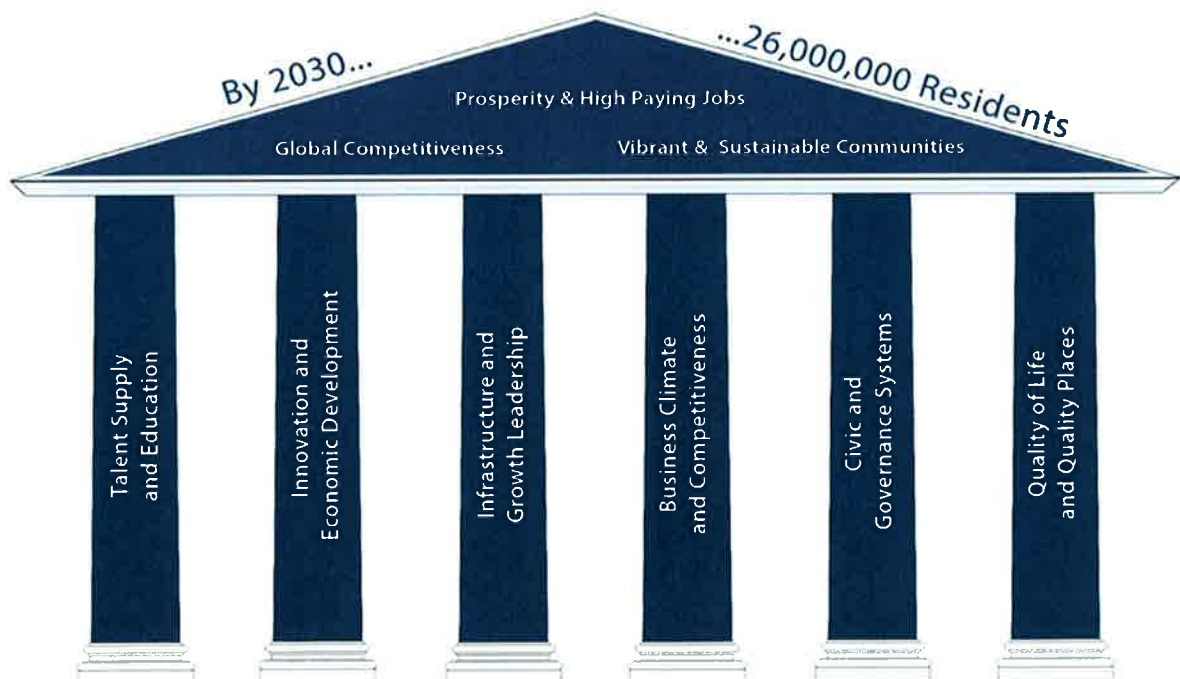
B. Goals and Objectives

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy establishes the goals and objectives necessary to solve the economic problems and capitalize on the resources of the region. Strategic projects, programs and activities identified in the Strategy are designed to fulfill these goals and objectives. The goals and objectives are organized using the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy.

"Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars is organizing framework for Goals and Objectives."

- Goals are broad, primary regional expectations.
- Objectives are more specific than goals, clearly measurable, and stated in realistic terms considering what can be accomplished over the five-year time frame of the Strategy.

THE SIX PILLARS OF THE FLORIDA ECONOMY



The table below is the, "at-a-glance," version of the North Central Florida Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

North Central Florida Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (2013-2017)

October 2013 - September 2017

Vision					
North central Florida will become the leading rural region within Florida by creating a business environment that is a viable alternative to the urban areas of Florida. The region will be recognized as one of the best places to live, learn, work and do business in the state and nation.					
Goals					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the region's competitiveness as a location for business, investment, talent, innovation and tourism. Expand north central Florida's intermodal transportation and communication systems to enhance the region's economic growth and prosperity. Promote the region as a unique tourism destination, while preserving and enhancing the region's natural environment and quality of life. 					
Objectives					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve employment opportunities and resiliency in North Central Florida. Foster opportunities for prosperity. Grow local businesses. Expand global commerce. Increase north central Florida's attractiveness to employers, workers, residents and visitors. 					
Cross-Cutting Strategies					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen collaboration and alignment among north central Florida's public, private and non-profit entities toward a shared economic vision. Develop regional talent and innovation clusters using global best practices. Position north central Florida as a globally competitive region by integrating economic development, infrastructure and other resources in support of regional economic development initiatives. Diversify the regional economy by expanding existing industry clusters and supporting emerging innovation clusters. 					
Area-Specific Strategies					
Talent Supply & Education	Innovation & Economic Development	Infrastructure & Growth Leadership	Business Climate & Competitiveness	Civic & Governance Systems	Quality of Life & Quality Places
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Connect and align education and workforce development programs to develop the region's current and future talent supply chain and meet employer needs. Expand options for high school students to become industry certified while still in high school, as an alternative to college path. Integrate education, training and workforce development to develop a strong supply chain. Support efforts by Florida Gateway College, North Florida Community College and Santa Fe College to expand education programs in healthcare related fields and create a marketing strategy to promote enrollment in health professions programs. Support the creation of electronic medical records education and training programs utilizing a regional community-adaptive health information technology model. Expand access to education and training programs for talent in distressed markets (e.g. rural, urban core) throughout the region. Support the creation of online and distance learning programs for students that lack other means of obtaining necessary training. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grow, sustain and integrate efforts related to research and development, technology commercialization, and seed capital to create, nurture and expand regional innovation businesses. Support development of the Innovation Square research and development park in Gainesville, and the integration of the University of Florida's research enterprise and commercialization programs into the fabric of the Innovation Square project through the Florida Innovation Hub at the University of Florida and Progress Park in Alachua. Support the development of existing and new incubators and accelerators throughout the region such as the Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center, the Santa Fe Center for Innovation and Economic Development in Gainesville and the Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator in Alachua. Support the development of existing and new industrial parks throughout the region such as Cornerstone in Gainesville. Provide educational opportunities to regional businesses interested in international trade on the advantages of exporting their goods and services. Brand and market the north central Florida region as the best location for business. Support the North Florida Economic Development Partnership asset mapping and geographic information system projects in the region. Support the development of the Enterprise Florida/Rural Economic Development Initiative Catalyst Sites located in Columbia County and Suwannee County by providing funding sources for the infrastructure necessary to develop the catalyst sites to shovel ready status. Promote the continued viability of military installations in close proximity to the region. Improve collaboration between local government and military leaders to utilize best management practices that ensure successful economic partnerships. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Modernize the region's transportation, telecommunications, energy, water and wastewater systems to meet future demand and respond to changing business needs. Support the development of diverse, reliable and cost effective energy sources and systems to meet the region's economic and environmental goals. Ensure the future supply and quality of water to meet the region's economic and quality of life goals by encouraging the use of the groundwater resources of the region in a sustainable manner and by strengthening local control of on-site surface and groundwater systems and supplies. Develop and maintain a cutting-edge telecommunications infrastructure by supporting the North Florida Broadband Authority's initiatives to bring high-speed internet service to the rural areas of the region. Develop and maintain multimodal, interconnected trade, logistics and transportation systems to enhance freight mobility in support of a prosperous, competitive economy. Support the continued development of the Gainesville Regional Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System and promote the designation of the Lake City Municipal Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System. Improve coordination of economic development, land use, infrastructure, water, energy, natural resources, workforce and community development decision-making and investments at the regional level. Improve collaboration and alignment between regional/local agencies and business leaders through a regional vision. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Streamline permitting, development and other regulatory processes at the local level to meet changing business needs and provide a predictable legal and regulatory environment in the region. Reduce barriers to small business and entrepreneurial growth. Develop a government revenue structure that encourages business growth and development. Ensure local government agencies provide collaborative, seamless, consistent and timely customer service to regional businesses. Work with water management districts in the region to simplify permitting process for new and expanding businesses. Expand opportunities for access to capital for businesses throughout their life cycle. Create a database of capital sources available to regional businesses. Enhance the resilience of the North Central Florida economy in the face of natural disasters and changes in the national and state economies through increased awareness and adaptation by businesses for environmental risks. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support and sustain regional partnerships to accomplish the region's economic and quality of life goals. Utilize the North Florida Economic Development Partnership's Economic Development Academy as a vehicle to provide a functional understanding of economic development concepts to local elected officials. Work with the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities to add economic development information to their curriculae for newly elected officials. Invest in strategic regional economic development priorities. Work with water management districts in the region to simplify permitting process for new and expanding businesses. Expand opportunities for access to capital for businesses throughout their life cycle. Create a database of capital sources available to regional businesses. Enhance the resilience of the North Central Florida economy in the face of natural disasters and changes in the national and state economies through increased awareness and adaptation by businesses for environmental risks. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure future growth and development decisions maintain a balance between sustaining the region's environment and enhancing the region's economy and quality of life. Create and sustain vibrant, healthy communities that attract workers, businesses, residents and visitors to the region. Promote and incentivize local government in the development of vibrant city centers. Promote, develop, and leverage the region's natural and cultural assets in a sustainable manner. Support the efforts of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force and other regional tourism marketing organizations to develop sustainable tourism-based economic development programs and increase the entrepreneurial capacity of the hospitality industry. Improve the branding and awareness of the region as a tourism destination by leveraging regional resources with VISIT FLORIDA, the State's official tourism marketing organization. Promote and support the state parks within the region and improve branding and awareness of the parks as a tourist destination.
Priority Project Areas					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industry. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern. Support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support continuing improvements to multi-modal infrastructure, including highway interchanges along interstate corridors, railway corridors, airport facilities and broadband infrastructure. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support streamlining processes at the local level to encourage new businesses to open and help existing businesses thrive. Educate government and businesses on continuity and recovery plans in the event of natural or man-made disasters to address workforce retention and ensure access to loan and other assistance programs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support programs to educate local government officials in the fundamentals of economic development. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.

1. Talent Supply & Education

GOAL 1 - Connect and align education and workforce development programs to develop the region's current and future talent supply chain and meet employer needs.

**"Connect and align
education and workforce."**

Objective 1.1 - Expand options for high school students to become industry certified while still in high school, as an alternative to college path.

Objective 1.2 - Integrate education, training and workforce development to develop a strong supply chain.

Objective 1.3 - Support efforts by Florida Gateway College, North Florida Community College, **and** Santa Fe College, **CareerSource Crown, CareerSource North Florida and CareerSource North Central Florida** to expand education programs in healthcare related fields and create a marketing strategy to promote enrollment in health professions programs.

Objective 1.4 - Support the creation of electronic medical records education and training programs utilizing a regional community-adaptive health information technology model.



University of Florida Infinity Hall, Gainesville

GOAL 2 - Expand access to education and training programs for talent in distressed markets (e.g., rural, urban core) throughout the region.

Objective 2.1 - Support the creation of online and distance learning programs for students that lack other means of attaining necessary training.

2. Innovation & Economic Development

GOAL 3 - Grow, sustain and integrate efforts related to research and development, technology commercialization, and seed capital to create, nurture and expand regional innovation businesses.

“Integrate research and commercialization to nurture innovation.”

Objective 3.1 - Support development of the Innovation Square research and development park in Gainesville, **and** the integration of the University of Florida’s research enterprise and commercialization programs into the fabric of the Innovation Square project through the Florida Innovation Hub at the University of Florida **and Progress Park in Alachua.**

Objective 3.2 - Support the development of existing and new business incubators and accelerators throughout the region **such as the Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center, the Santa Fe Center for Innovation and Economic Development in Gainesville and the Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator in Alachua.**

Objective 3.3 - Support the development of existing and new industrial parks throughout the region such as Cornerstone in Gainesville.

GOAL 4 - Increase the number of regional businesses engaged in selling goods and services internationally and the diversification of the markets they serve.

Objective 4.1 - Provide educational opportunities to regional businesses interested in international trade on the advantages of exporting their goods and services.

GOAL 5 - Brand and market the north central Florida region as the best location for business.

Objective 5.1 - Support the North Florida Economic Development Partnership asset mapping and geographic information system projects in the region.

Objective 5.2 - Support the development of the Enterprise Florida/Rural Economic Development Initiative Catalyst Sites located in Columbia County and Suwannee County by pursuing funding sources for the infrastructure necessary to develop the catalyst sites to shovel ready status.



**Florida Innovation Hub at
the University of Florida, Gainesville**

GOAL 6 - Promote the continued viability of military installations in close proximity to the region.

Objective 6.1 - Improve collaboration between local government and military leaders to utilize best management practices that ensure successful economic partnerships.

3. Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

GOAL 7 - Modernize the region's transportation, telecommunications, energy, water and wastewater systems to meet future demand and respond to changing business needs.

**"Modernize infrastructure
of region."**

Objective 7.1 - Support the development of diverse, reliable and cost effective energy sources and systems to meet the region's economic and environmental goals.

Objective 7.2 - Ensure the future supply and quality of water to meet the region's economic and quality of life goals by encouraging the use of the groundwater resources of the region in a sustainable manner and by strengthening local control of area surface and groundwater systems and supplies.

Objective 7.3 - Develop and maintain a cutting-edge telecommunications infrastructure by supporting ~~the North Florida Broadband Authority's~~ initiatives to bring high-speed internet service to the rural areas of the region.

Objective 7.4 - Develop and maintain multimodal, interconnected trade, logistics and transportation systems to enhance freight mobility in support of a prosperous, competitive economy.

Objective 7.5 - Support the continued development of the Gainesville Regional Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System and promote the designation of the Lake City Municipal Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System.

GOAL 8 - Improve coordination of economic development, land use, infrastructure, water, energy, natural resources, workforce and community development decision-making and investments at the regional level.



Interstate I-75 Bridge, Gainesville

Objective 8.1 - Improve collaboration and alignment between regional and local agencies and business leaders through a regional vision.

4. Business Climate & Competitiveness

GOAL 9 - Streamline permitting, development and other regulatory processes at the local level to meet changing business needs and provide a predictable legal and regulatory environment in the region.

"Streamline permitting to provide predictability."

Objective 9.1 - Reduce barriers to small business and entrepreneurial growth.

Objective 9.2 - Develop a government revenue structure that encourages business growth and development.

GOAL 10 - Ensure local government agencies provide collaborative, seamless, consistent and timely customer service to regional businesses.

Objective 10.1 - Work with water management districts in the region to simplify permitting process for new and expanding businesses.

GOAL 11 - Expand opportunities for access to capital for businesses throughout their life cycle.

Objective 11.1 - Create a database of capital sources available to regional businesses.

Goal 12: To enhance the resilience of the North Central Florida economy in the face of natural disasters and changes to the national and state economies through increased awareness and preparation by businesses for environmental risks.



Innovation Hub Phase 2 Construction, Gainesville

Objective 12.1 Educate government and businesses on continuity and recovery plans in the event of natural or man-made disasters to address workforce retention and ensure access to loan and other assistance programs.

5. Civic & Governance Systems

GOAL 123 - Support and sustain regional partnerships to accomplish the region's economic and quality of life goals.

"Support and sustain regional partnerships."

Objective 123.1 - Utilize the North Florida Economic Development Partnership's Economic Development Academy as a vehicle to provide a functional understanding of economic development concepts to local elected officials.

Objective 123.2 - Work with the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities to add economic development information to their curriculums for newly elected officials.

Objective 123.3 - Invest in strategic regional economic development priorities.



Suwannee County Courthouse, Live Oak

6. Quality of Life & Quality Places

GOAL 134 - Ensure future growth and development decisions maintain a balance between sustaining the region's environment and enhancing the region's economy and quality of life.

**"Create and sustain
vibrant, healthy
communities."**

Objective 134.1 - Create and sustain vibrant, healthy communities that attract workers, businesses, residents and visitors to the region.

Objective 134.2 - Promote and incentivize local government in the development of vibrant city centers.

GOAL 145 - Promote, develop, and leverage the region's natural and cultural assets in a sustainable manner.

Objective 145.1 - Support the efforts of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force and other regional tourism marketing organizations to develop sustainable tourism-based economic development programs and increase the entrepreneurial capacity of the hospitality industry.



Bradford County Strawberry Festival, Starke

Objective 145.2 - Improve the branding and awareness of the region as a tourism destination by leveraging regional resources with VISIT FLORIDA, the State's official tourism marketing organization.

Objective 145.3 - Promote and support the state parks within the region and improve branding and awareness of the parks as a tourist destination.

C. Plan of Action

The North Central Florida Economic Development District will coordinate the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy projects and activities with local and state economic development agencies where appropriate. The plan of action will implement the goals and objectives of the Strategy in alignment with the Florida Strategic Five-Year Plan for Economic Development as follows:

1. Conduct regular meetings of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee to monitor the status of regional projects and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy implementation. District staff will actively participate in economic development activities in the region and provide technical assistance when needed.
2. Support the North Florida Economic Development Partnership and the development of the North Central Florida Rural Area of **Critical Economic Concern Opportunity** Catalyst Sites in Columbia and Suwannee Counties by serving on the Partnership's Board of Directors and providing technical assistance when necessary.
3. Promote sustainable economic development through regional tourism promotion, while encouraging the preservation of resources that bring visitors to the area. The North Central Florida Economic Development District will provide professional staffing services to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force to implement their regional marketing strategies.
4. Identify economic development projects that may qualify for federal and state funding opportunities and provide grant writing and administrative services where needed.

**"Support Rural Areas of
Critical Economic Concern
Catalyst Sites."**

**"Support regional
tourism promotion."**



Downtown Redevelopment, Gainesville

5. Provide technical assistance in the form of economic impacts analysis, research, and best practices to local economic development organizations and government agencies.

6. Facilitate coordination between regional economic development strategies and the state's five-year economic development plan.



D. Strategic Projects, Programs and Activities - Vital Project Areas of the North Central Florida Economic Development District

1. Talent Supply & Education

- a. Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industry.

**"Vital Project Areas
focus on strengthening
the regional economy."**

2. Innovation & Economic Development

- a. Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of **Critical-Economic Concern Opportunity**.
- b. Support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks.

3. Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

- a. Support continuing improvements to multi-modal infrastructure, including highway interchanges along interstate corridors, railway corridors, airport facilities and broadband infrastructure.

4. Business Climate & Competitiveness

- a. Support streamlining processes at the local level to encourage new businesses to open and help existing businesses thrive.
- b. **Educate government and businesses on continuity and recovery plans in the event of natural or man-made disasters to address workforce retention and ensure access to loan and other assistance programs.**

5. Civic & Governance Systems

- a. Support programs to educate local government officials in the fundamentals of economic development.

6. Quality of Life & Quality Places

- a. Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.



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XI.A.

Serving Alachua
Bradford • Columbia
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton
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Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives.

The Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying-out the following objectives.

- Ensure regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the State of Florida, its local governments, and the citizens they serve;
- Ensure regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers, and serve as conveners of the region by helping to articulate those multijurisdictional issues that need resolution;
- Encourage and promote opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments;
- Monitor substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members, and promote mutually supportive policy positions among the regional planning councils;
- Represent regional planning councils in national organizations, such as the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute; and
- Foster relationships and partnerships and coordinate with state, regional, and national associations and organizations; non-profit entities; public-private partnerships; the Governor's Office; state agencies; and others, on issues of mutual interest and concern, and with whom the Association shares mutual goals and programs.

Please find attached the August 2017 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Apalachee • Central Florida
East Central Florida • North Central Florida
Northeast Florida • South Florida • Southwest Florida
Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast • West Florida

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: August 2017

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized and distributed the July 2017 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter. Began collecting articles and formatting the July and August 2017 Newsletters.
- Continued to maintain and enhance the FRCA website and maintain the email listserv for the more than 2,400 individuals who receive the FRCA Newsletter with the assistance of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC).
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in or attended the following meetings and shared information:
 - Rural Economic Development Initiative
- Assisted with coordination of the REMI and Economic Development Administration workshops being held in Orlando August 15-16, 2017.
- Maintained and enhanced the FRCA Facebook page.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Attended and staffed the August FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee (EDAC) and Partners Meetings being held in conjunction with the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference August 17-18, 2017 in Orlando.
- Coordinated logistics and prepared for attendance at the Florida American Planning Association Annual Conference being held September 6-8, 2017 in Daytona Beach.
- Coordinated with Florida Chamber Foundation staff for the September 28, 2017 EDAC and Partners meetings.
- Shared information regarding funding opportunities when available.
- Coordinated with regional planning councils on project presentations at 2018 conferences.



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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

The Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan.

The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars.

- Talent and Supply Education;
- Innovation and Economic Development;
- Infrastructure and Growth Leadership;
- Business Climate and Competitiveness;
- Civic and Governance Systems; and
- Quality of Life and Quality Places.

Please find attached the September 2017 Scorecard.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

State of Florida Metrics

 **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

4.0%
(Declining)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)

Jobs Year Over Year Change

221,400

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)

 **CONSUMER SENTIMENT**

96.5
(Declining)

 **STATE OF FLORIDA VISITORS**

\$108.8
Billion Visitor Spending

112.3
Million Visitors

 **STATE HOUSING STARTS & SALES**

7,212
Starts (Declining)

24,546
Sales (Declining)

 **SALES TAX REVENUE**

\$2.358
Billion per Month
(Declining)

 **INCOME MIGRATION**

\$879K
Per Hour

 **POVERTY RATE**

15.8%
(Better)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)

 **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

80.7%
(Improving)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)

 **VOTER PARTICIPATION**

74%
(Improving)



THE FLORIDA SCORECARD: [THEFLORIDASCORECARD.ORG](http://thefloridascorecard.org)

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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2018 regular Legislature session is scheduled to convene on January 9, 2018 and adjourn on March 9, 2018. The legislative interim Committee schedule is, as follows:

- Week of September 11, 2017 (cancelled due to Hurricane Irma)
- Week of October 9, 2017
- Week of October 23, 2017
- Week of November 6, 2017
- Week of November 13, 2017
- Week of December 4, 2017

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.




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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Regional Dispute Resolution Process

Pursuant to Section 186.509, Florida Statutes, as amended, the Council adopted a regional dispute resolution process codified in Chapter 29C-8, Florida Administrative Code. The intent is to provide a flexible process to reconcile differences on planning and growth management issues.

The process is designed to clearly identify and resolve problems as early as possible, utilize the procedures in a low-to- high consequence, allow flexibility in the order in which the procedures are used, provide for the involvement of affected and responsible parties, and provide as much process certainty as possible. The process may be used to resolve disputes involving: extra jurisdictional impacts as provided for in the intergovernmental coordination elements of local comprehensive plans, as required by Section 163.3177, Florida Statutes, as amended; inconsistencies between port master plans and local comprehensive plans, as required by Section 163.3178 Florida Statutes, as amended; the siting of community residential homes, as required by Section 419.001(5), Florida Statutes, as amended; and any other matters covered by statutes which reference the process.

The Council received a request for an informal pre-initiation meeting as specified in Chapter 29C-8 from Alachua County concerning a comprehensive plan amendment challenge the County has filed against the City of Gainesville which is currently the subject of an administrative hearing proceeding. Council staff met with County staff on August 15, 2017 for the informal pre-initiation meeting to ascertain whether the process is appropriate for resolving the above referenced dispute.

It was determined at the informal pre-initiation meeting that the process would be appropriate for resolving the above referenced dispute. Subsequently, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners at its September 12, 2017 meeting voted to initiate the voluntary regional dispute resolution process. (See attached letter, resolution and information to be included with initiation letter). The initial settlement meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2017 at the Council office and will be facilitated by Council staff.

There is no charge to the parties for processing an initiation request and facilitation of the initial settlement meeting. However, the Council must be compensated for situation assessments, facilitation of additional settlement meetings, mediation, technical assistance and other staff services based on reasonable actual costs. In addition, outside professional neutrals, such as mediators, services must be compensated at their standard rate or at a rate as negotiated by the parties. The costs of administration, settlement meetings or advisory arbitration must be split equally between the named parties or according to another agreed upon allocation.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Ken Cormell, *Chair*
Lee Pinkoson, *Vice Chair*
Mike Byerly
Charles S. Chestnut, IV
Robert Hutchinson

Administration
Michele L. Lieberman, ICM
Interim County Manager

September 12, 2017

Mayor Lauren Poe
City of Gainesville
P.O. Box 490
Gainesville, FL 32627-0490

RE: Initiation of Regional Dispute Resolution Process for City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan
Amendment Adopted by Ordinance 160398 (Weseman Property)

Dear Mayor Poe:

At its meeting on September 12, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners voted to initiate the voluntary regional dispute resolution process as provided in Section 186.509, Florida Statutes, and Rule 29C-8, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), for the purpose of addressing the issues associated with the above-referenced amendment to the City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan, and the related administrative challenge which was filed by the County on April 3, 2017 (Florida Division of Administrative Hearings Case No. 17-1992GM). This letter includes a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners authorizing the initiation of this process pursuant to Rule 29C-8.010(1), F.A.C., as well as the required information specified in Rule 29C-8.010(2), F.A.C. (see Enclosures).

According to Rule 29C-8.001, F.A.C., the purpose of the regional dispute resolution process is, "to reconcile differences on planning, growth management, and other issues among local governments, regional agencies, and private interests." If the City wishes to participate in this process, it would be required to send a response letter to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and to the County, confirming its willingness to participate in a settlement meeting within 30 days of receipt of this initiation letter (Rule 29C-8.010(3), F.A.C.).

It is anticipated that the proposed regional dispute resolution process would supplement the efforts by the County and the City to develop a Joint Planning Agreement to address the various annexation and transportation issues discussed at the joint meeting of the County and City Commissions on August 14, 2017.

Page 2

We look forward to working with the City in the process to resolve these important issues.

Sincerely,



Ken Cornell, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr17.128

KC/BC/bc

Enclosures:

- (1) Resolution of Board of County Commissioners Initiating the Regional Dispute Resolution Process
- (2) Information Required to be Included with Initiation Letter Pursuant to Rule 29C-8.010(2), Florida Administrative Code

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, Interim County Manager
Sylvia Torres, Interim County Attorney
Anthony Lyons, Gainesville City Manager
Nicolle Shalley, Gainesville City Attorney
Scott Koons, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Jacob Cremer, Esq., Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A.

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ALACHUA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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RESOLUTION 2017-110

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE ALACHUA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO INITIATE THE REGIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 186.509, FLORIDA STATUTES AND RULE 29C-8, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, FINDING THAT A DISPUTE EXISTS WITH THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA AS IT RELATES TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY CITY COMMISSION ORDINANCE NUMBER 160398 ON MARCH 2, 2017; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO ADHERE TO THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 29C-8, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Whereas, on March 2, 2017, the City of Gainesville, Florida, adopted Ordinance 160398 amending the City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan, by adding approximately 157 acres to the City's Comprehensive Plan and changing the Future Land Use map designations for the subject property from the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan future land use categories of "Low Density Residential" (1-4 units per acre) and "Medium Density Residential" (4-8 units per acre) to the City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan future land use categories of "Mixed-Use Medium Intensity" (12-30 units per acre), "Mixed-Use Low Intensity" (8-30 units per acre), "Residential Low-Density" (up to 12 units per acre), and "Single-Family" (up to 8 units per acre) ("City FLUM amendment"); and,

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2017, Alachua County filed an administrative challenge petition (Florida Division of Administrative Hearings Case No. 17-1992GM) pursuant to Section 163.3184(5), Florida Statutes, and alleged that the City FLUM amendment is not "in

36 compliance" as set forth in Section 163.3184(1)(b). Florida Statutes, and that Alachua County
37 has a substantial interest by reason of future impacts on and the increased need for County
38 transportation infrastructure to serve the potential future development within the City; and,

39 WHEREAS, the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan 2011-2030, Policy 1.1.3 of the
40 Intergovernmental Coordination Element, provides that Alachua County shall use the informal
41 mediation process of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council to resolve
42 comprehensive planning issues with governmental units in the same regional planning council
43 jurisdiction; and,

44 WHEREAS, Alachua County and the City of Gainesville are both within the geographic
45 jurisdiction of, and are both members of, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;
46 and,

47 WHEREAS, Section 186.509, Florida Statutes provides that each regional planning
48 council shall establish by rule a dispute resolution process to reconcile differences on planning
49 and growth management issues between local governments, regional agencies, and private
50 interests; and,

51 WHEREAS, the rules of procedure and practice pertaining to the regional dispute
52 resolution process for the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are provided in Rule
53 29C-8 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.); and,

54 WHEREAS, Rule 29C-8.010, F.A.C. provides that the regional dispute resolution process
55 shall be initiated by a letter from the representative of the governing body of a jurisdiction to the
56 named parties in the dispute as provided for in subsections 29C-8.003(1) and (2), F.A.C., and to
57 the Regional Planning Council. Such initiation letter must be accompanied by a resolution of the
58 governing body authorizing the specific initiation of the regional dispute resolution process.

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
60 COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

61 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County hereby initiates the
62 regional dispute resolution process, as provided in Section 186.509, Florida Statutes, and Rule
63 29C-8, Florida Administrative Code, through the adoption of this Resolution.

64 2. The dispute is between the government and Board of County Commissioners of
65 Alachua County and the government and City Commission of the City of Gainesville.

66 3. The subject of the dispute is City of Gainesville Ordinance 160398 adopted by the
67 Gainesville City Commission on March, 2, 2017, which added approximately 157 acres to the
68 City's Comprehensive Plan and changed the Future Land Use map designations for the subject
69 property from the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan future land use categories of "Low
70 Density Residential" (1-4 units per acre) and "Medium Density Residential" (4-8 units per acre)
71 to the City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan future land use categories of "Mixed-Use
72 Medium Intensity" (12-30 units per acre), "Mixed-Use Low Intensity" (8-30 units per acre),
73 "Residential Low-Density" (up to 12 units per acre), and "Single-Family" (up to 8 units per
74 acre).

75 4. The Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County directs the County
76 Manager and County Attorney to adhere to the procedural requirements as outlined in Rule 29C-
77 8, Florida Administrative Code.

78 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

79 DULY ADOPTED in regular session, this 12th day of September, 2017.

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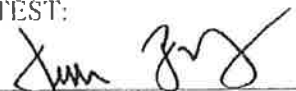
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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Ken Cornell, Chair

ATTEST:


Jesse K. Irby, II, Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM


Alachua County Attorney's Office

**INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED WITH INITIATION LETTER
PURSUANT TO RULE 29C-8.010(2), FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

I. Named Parties to be Involved in Regional Dispute Resolution Process

Local Government Jurisdictions:

- Alachua County, a Political Subdivision of the State Of Florida
- City of Gainesville, a Municipal Corporation

Other Public or Private Named Parties:

- Weseman Development, LLC
- Tower Road Properties, LLC
- Tanglewood Properties of Gainesville, LLC
- Concept Development, Inc.

II. Brief History of Dispute

- On March 2, 2017, the City of Gainesville adopted Ordinance No. 160398, amending its Comprehensive Plan by adding approximately 157 acres of recently annexed property to the City's Comprehensive Plan by changing the Future Land Use map designations for the subject property (known as the "Weseman Property") from the Alachua County categories of "Low Density Residential" (1-4 units per acre) and "Medium Density Residential" (4-8 units per acre) to the City of Gainesville categories of "Mixed-Use Medium Intensity" (12-30 units per acre), "Mixed-Use Low Intensity" (8-30 units per acre), "Residential Low-Density" (up to 12 units per acre), and "Single-Family" (up to 8 units per acre).
- On April 3, 2017, Alachua County filed an administrative challenge petition (Florida Division of Administrative Hearings Case No. 17-1992GM) pursuant to Section 163.3184(5), Florida Statutes, and alleged that the City's Comprehensive Plan amendment for the Weseman Property described above is not "in compliance" as set forth in Section 163.3184(1)(b), Florida Statutes, and that Alachua County has a substantial interest by reason of future impacts on, and the increased need for, County transportation infrastructure to serve the potential future development of the subject property within the City. This case is currently in abeyance, with the next status report due to the Administrative Law Judge by November 7, 2017.
- In a separate but related matter, on February 16, 2017, the City of Gainesville adopted Ordinance No. 160216, which, at the request of the property owner, annexed approximately 100 acres of property into the City of Gainesville (known as the "Finley Woods Annexation").
- On February 28, 2017, the County adopted Resolution No. 2017-28, which initiated the intergovernmental conflict resolution procedures set forth in Chapter 164, Florida Statutes, and alleged that the Finley Woods Annexation does not meet the requirements for

annexation set forth in Chapter 171, Florida Statutes, due to the creation of an enclave, and that the County will suffer material injury by reason of impacts to land use and transportation planning and funding of future transportation infrastructure needs.

- The County and City participated in three conflict assessment meetings on the Finley Woods annexation pursuant to Chapter 164, Florida Statutes. These meetings were held on April 17, 2017, June 12, 2017, and June 19, 2017. During these Chapter 164 conflict assessment meetings, the general annexation and transportation issues associated with both the Finley Woods Annexation and the Weseman Property Comprehensive Plan Amendment were discussed. At the third conflict assessment meeting on June 19, 2017, the City of Gainesville requested that the regional dispute resolution process be utilized to address the comprehensive planning issues associated with the Weseman Property Comprehensive Plan Amendment, while the Finley Woods annexation would continue in the Chapter 164 conflict resolution process.
- On August 14, 2017, the Alachua County Commission and City of Gainesville Commission held a joint meeting, where various annexation and transportation planning issues associated with both the Weseman Property Comprehensive Plan Amendment and the Finley Woods Annexation were discussed. At that meeting, both the County and City Commissions directed their staffs to continue to seek resolution of the conflict on the Finley Woods Annexation, pursuant to Chapter 164, F.S. by scheduling additional meetings of the Commissions, or their designees. The Commissions also directed their staffs to develop a Joint Planning Agreement which would address specific annexation, transportation planning, and transportation funding issues which are central to the County's administrative challenge on the City's Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the Weseman Property.

III. Issues to be Discussed in Regional Dispute Resolution Process

Based on the direction of both the County and City Commissions at their joint meeting on August 15, 2017 to develop a Joint Planning Agreement to address specific annexation, transportation planning, and transportation funding issues within a joint planning area, the County anticipates that the regional dispute resolution process can be used as a venue to discuss the details of the Joint Planning Agreement which would address the following matters:

1. Joint Planning Area: Establishment of a joint planning area that includes the entire "Urban Cluster", as designated in the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan, including areas within the Urban Cluster boundary that were recently annexed by the City of Gainesville.
2. Long Range Transportation Planning Framework: Identification of a long range transportation planning framework for the joint planning area which would be adopted as part of both the County and City Comprehensive Plans.
3. Funding of Transportation Capital Improvement Needs: Development of strategies, such as impact fees or multimodal transportation mitigation fees, to be implemented by both the City and County for funding future transportation infrastructure needs in the joint planning

area in a way that adequately mitigates the public costs of providing transportation capital improvements relating to the impacts of new development.

4. Funding of Road Maintenance Needs: Development of strategies to address the long term road maintenance needs of both the County and City governments within the joint planning area.
5. Land Use and Development Policies: Establishment of general land use goals for the joint planning area to facilitate the transition of lands within the joint planning area from the County's jurisdiction to the City's jurisdiction over time, and also to effectively promote dense, mixed used transit-supportive development patterns.

IV. Appropriateness of Regional Dispute Resolution Process

The Alachua County Comprehensive Plan 2011-2030, Policy 1.1.3 of the Intergovernmental Coordination Element, provides that Alachua County shall "use the informal mediation process of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council to resolve comprehensive planning issues with governmental units in the same regional planning council jurisdiction." The Weseman property Comprehensive Plan Amendment involves complex comprehensive planning issues that affect Alachua County and the City of Gainesville, both of which are within the jurisdiction of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Alachua County staff met with North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff for a pre-initiation meeting as required by Rule 29C-8.008, F.A.C. on August 15, 2017, and there was general agreement that this dispute would be appropriate for the regional dispute resolution process.

V. County's Representative and Other Staff Anticipated to Attend Dispute Resolution Meeting(s)

Alachua County Designated Representative: Michele Lieberman, Interim County Manager

Other County Staff Anticipated to Attend Dispute Resolution Meeting(s):

County Attorney's Office:

- Sylvia Torres, Interim County Attorney
- Corbin Hanson, Assistant County Attorney

County Manager's Office and Staff:

- Jim Harriott, Deputy County Manager
- Steve Lachnicht, Director, Growth Management Department
- Jeff Hays, Transportation Planning Manager, Growth Management Department
- Ben Chumley, Senior Planner, Growth Management Department



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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Visit Florida Flagler Award

As you know, the Council provides staff services to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force to assist them in implementing their regional marketing program. In order to increase tourism generated revenues in the north Florida region, the Task Force implements campaigns to increase tourist visits to the Natural North Florida region. The goal of the Task Force is to enhance the economy of the area, image and quality of life through expanded revenues and employment opportunities.

The Task Force recently received a Flagler Award from VisitFlorida for the Visit Natural North Florida Bicycle Guide Web Page project. The Flagler Awards were established by the Florida Commission on Tourism (VisitFlorida) to recognize outstanding tourism marketing in Florida. Each year, the Flagler Awards honor many of the countless individuals and organizations that help position Florida as the number one travel destination in the world. The Awards pay tribute to the determined efforts of those who use their skill, resourcefulness, creativity and innovative spirit to market Florida to the world.

Council staff assisted the Task Force in the development of an online bicycle guide web page. Council staff consulted with Bike Florida, a statewide non-profit bicycling organization, the Gainesville Cycling Club, the Suwannee Bicycle Association, local governments and county tourist development organizations in the selection and, in some cases, the direct development of the routes. Each digitized bicycle route includes a route description with turn-by-turn directions.

The project consisted of an online bicycle guide web page consisting of detailed bicycle route maps and descriptions, as well as a bicycle club through which club members could download bicycle routes and route descriptions to a cell phone app which provides turn-by-turn route directions on a global positioning system device. The Visit Natural North Florida Bicycle Club is housed on www.RidewithGPS.com, where the Task Force maintains a club account. Bicyclists can join the bicycle club free of charge through the Visit Natural North Florida bicycling page (<http://www.naturalnorthflorida.com/bike-guide/>). Once a club member, bicyclists can then download the Ride with GPS cell phone app to their cell phone and download the Visit Natural North Florida bicycle routes to the cell phone app for turn-by-turn directions while bicycling.

The bicycle guide web page includes two online, interactive bicycle routes for each county in the region plus two multi-day, regional routes exposing riders to the more interesting natural, cultural and historic resources of the region. The routes also include points of interest as well as lodging and restaurant locations and the locations of similar items of interest along the routes.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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FLAGLER AWARDS

2017

SILVER AWARD

CATEGORY

Rural County Marketing

AWARDED TO

Original Florida Tourism Task Force

ENTRY NAME

**Visit Natural North Florida
Bicycle Guide Web Page**



Maryann Ferenc

CHAIR

VISIT FLORIDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ken Lawson

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
VISIT FLORIDA

VISITFLORIDA®

Recognition of outstanding achievement in Florida tourism marketing.
Presented by VISIT FLORIDA

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XI.F.

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September 21, 2017

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Regional Directory

Pursuant to Council authorization, staff prepared a regional directory of local governments in the region and state and federal agencies. The 2017 Regional Directory was mailed to local, regional, state and federal officials, and planning and related agencies the week of September 11, 2017. Council staff would like to thank everyone who assisted in compiling this information.

A downloadable version of the 2017 Regional Directory in pdf format is also available on the Council website at www.ncfrpc.org.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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