

**TAB 4**

# **CRA ADVISORY BOARD**

## **September 8, 2009**

### **MEETING**

## **COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Draft Letters for County Joint Efforts**

**The CRA Advisory Board unanimously voted to recommend that letters be sent to Manatee County Board of Commissioners for joint ventures as follows:**

- 1. Bus Transportation Hub “Park & Ride”**
- 2. Marketing Plan – County, CRA, Enterprise Zone, Manatee County Port**
- 3. Civic Center Hotel**

September XX, 2009

Dr. Gwendolyn Y. Brown  
Chair, Manatee County Board of Commissioners  
P. O. Box 1000  
Bradenton, FL 34206-1000

Re: Palmetto Bus Transportation Hub "Park and Ride"

Dr. Brown:

As you can imagine, the City of Palmetto and its Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) are really excited about the County Bus Transportation Hub located on the North end of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Palmetto. As part of the CRA's state mandate, we are charged with addressing the welfare of the CRA Residents and this new hub can certainly fulfill that mandate.

We support your efforts to create a "park and ride" location within the City of Palmetto. This initiative further reinforces our commitment to fulfilling the above referenced initiative. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has recommended the County purchase certain property for this purpose. We certainly support that recommendation and would love the opportunity to meet and discuss whatever efforts we can contribute to this initiative.

Again, we are excited about the Transfer Hub and the benefits that our citizens and City will derive. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Shirley Groover Bryant  
Mayor, City of Palmetto  
Chair, Palmetto Community Redevelopment Agency

September , 2009

Dr. Gwendolyn Y. Brown  
Chair, Manatee County Board of Commissioners  
P. O. Box 1000  
Bradenton, FL 34206-1000

RE: Palmetto CRA, Manatee County Enterprise Zone, Manatee County Port Authority

Dear Dr. Brown:

As you know we are faced with some extraordinary challenges and opportunities given our current economy. One of the best opportunities that I feel we have before us is to identify efficiencies in promoting our respective communities.

As I assessed our geographic districts, it occurred to me that the "joining" of forces with the above referenced agencies could be beneficial to all. The Palmetto Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has some funds that could be used to enhance storefronts and the Enterprise Zone has a wonderful business incentive program that could present amenities for the Port to offer for developing or expanding its business in our respective areas.

We would like to propose developing a joint marketing plan for the 3 entities and wondered if the County Commission would consider exploring this further.

Please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss this opportunity further. I look forward to hearing from you. Just think of what we could do with this initiative.

Sincerely,

Shirley Groover Bryant  
Mayor, City of Palmetto  
Chair, Palmetto Community Redevelopment Agency

September , 2009

Dr. Gwendolyn Y. Brown  
Chair, Board of Manatee County Commissioners  
P. O. Box 1000  
Bradenton, FL 34206-1000

Re: Civic Center Hotel

Dear Dr. Brown:

The Palmetto Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) learned with interest that Manatee County wishes to issue a Request for Qualifications/Purchase for a hotel to be located at the Manatee County Civic Center in Palmetto. As you know this site is in the CRA district.

Your actions for this opportunity are favorable to the CRA Plan for Palmetto. The CRA would like for the Board of County Commissioners to consider a partnership on this project. We may be potentially interested in financing a "portion of" or the "entire" project if conditions for such a financing venture were sufficient to meet our requirements. It may be possible to bare into the equation, a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application as well as Manatee County's Enterprise Zone incentives and benefits.

On behalf of the CRA and its Advisory Board, I would like to invite the Commission to meet with us on this exciting proposition. Please contact me regarding any interest the Commission may have. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Shirley Groover Bryant  
Mayor, City of Palmetto  
Chair, Palmetto Community Redevelopment Agency