



# Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce

11954 SE Dixie Highway · P.O. Box 1507, Hobe Sound, Florida 33475

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[www.hobesound.org](http://www.hobesound.org)

May 18, 2015

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Dennis Root, Vice President**

*Dennis Root & Associates*

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*SeacoastBank*

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**Anthony Sementelli**

*Hobe Sound ShipCenter*

**Sue Stutzke**

*Nightingale Private Care*

Martin County Board of County Commissioners

2401 SE Monterey Road

Stuart, FL 34994

Dear Martin County Commissioners,

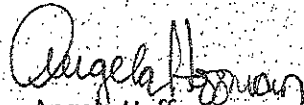
The Hobe Sound Chamber appreciates your dedication to the Martin County community, understanding that you have been entrusted to serve the greater good while solving some critical maintenance and infrastructure issues. While we commend you for your continued service, we were most recently concerned with your lack of support for the Martin County CRA's and particularly, the rejection of the Bridge Road redevelopment CIP last week.

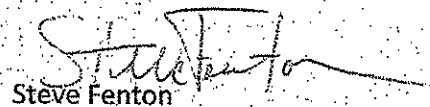
Martin County CRAs were created to address the crucial needs of focused areas that are historic business districts, identified as areas that need assistance reversing deterioration, creating jobs, revitalizing the business climate and increasing property values while creating a platform for citizen engagement. Over the years, Hobe Sound residents and business owners have participated, shared opinions, researched needs and have worked together to determine the needs of Hobe Sound and prioritize CRA projects. The process has been a positive one for Hobe Sound propelling citizen involvement in local government.

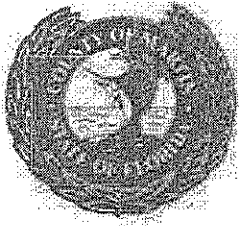
Most recently, the Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee recommended two CRA project priorities to the BOCC; underground utility lines, with financial support from FPL AND reconfiguring the unsafe corner of Bridge Road and Dixie Highway, easing passageway for pedestrians. Most importantly the funding is in place through TIFF funds. The Hobe Sound Chamber is in support of these priorities as they are vital issues effecting infrastructure needs, quality of life issues and safety and accessibility concerns.

Commissioners, we ask that you please reconsider the recommendations made by the Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee and approve the Bridge Road project priorities. Please honor your appointment of the community volunteers who serve on the NAC. They have committed immeasurable time and talent in an effort to fulfill their duties to the appointed board and community. Reward their tireless efforts by supporting the very project that will begin to make downtown Hobe Sound safer while improving infrastructure and accessibility.

Sincerely,

  
Angela Hoffman  
Executive Director

  
Steve Fenton  
Board President



# MARTIN COUNTY

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2401 S.E. MONTEREY ROAD • STUART, FL 34996

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DOUG SMITH  
Commissioner, District 1

ED FIELDING  
Commissioner, District 2

HAROLD E. JENKINS II  
Commissioner, District 3

SARAH HEARD  
Commissioner, District 4

EDWARD V. CIAMPI  
Commissioner, District 5

TARYN KRYZDA, CPM  
County Administrator

SARAH W. WOODS  
County Attorney

March 14, 2017

Honorable Senator Tom Lee  
418 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 1770 Community Redevelopment Agencies

Dear Senator Lee:

On behalf of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners, I wish to convey the importance of community redevelopment in Martin County and convey our concerns regarding SB 1770 Community Redevelopment Agencies.

Part III of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, allows a county or municipality to create a CRA to carry out redevelopment of blighted areas. CRA monies are all locally generated, collected, and must be spent in the CRA. There are currently 222 CRAs in Florida. These 222 redevelopment plans developed for each CRA are done so by citizens and stakeholders in communities who want better conditions and more private investment in the places they work and live in.

Like fingerprints, no two CRAs are alike in the state and particularly in unincorporated Martin County. Martin County's seven redevelopment districts vary from the working waterfront of Port Salerno to the area's industrial base in Indiantown. Citizens working in our CRAs have invested decades towards improving their community, advancing projects that bring private sector investment and address blight. FY16 alone saw a \$10 million increase in the investment of CRAs. Projects completed within the CRAs support the development of affordable housing, revitalize local businesses and address infrastructure needs.

CRAs leverage tax increment financing (TIF) as a tool for revitalization and to spur public private partnerships. This financing system is very popular and successful because it provides positive growth without any tax increases and decreases the drain on public services in blighted areas.


Martin County's CRA is governed by a board of appointed citizens. Each member also serves on their area's neighborhood advisory committee, a committee of up to 9 members who live and work in the community. The Board of County

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Commissioners strongly supports the work of the Community Redevelopment Areas and Agency and we are at an exciting time of tremendous opportunity to advance critical projects and bring greater renewal in our historic neighborhoods. Reducing the ability of our CRAs to innovate and address new challenges and opportunities would be counterproductive to this momentum. Therefore, we urge your support for the retention of local flexibility for CRAs in Florida.

Sincerely,



Doug Smith, Chairman  
Martin County Board of County Commissioners

DS/kp

C: Honorable Martin County Board of County Commissioners  
Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator

# Council of Chambers of Martin County

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: SB 1770 Community Redevelopment Agencies

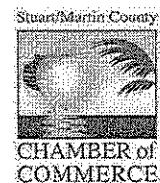
Dear Governor Scott,

On behalf of the Council of Chambers of Martin County and the Martin County Economic Council, we wish to convey concerns regarding SB 1770 Community Redevelopment Agencies. In Martin County, the Community Redevelopment Agency has played a significant role in the revitalization and rehabilitation of seven historic businesses districts.

As a united advocacy group for small businesses in Martin County, the Council of Chambers represents the Hobe Sound, Indiantown, Jensen Beach, Palm City and the Stuart/ Martin Chambers of Commerce. Together with the Martin County Economic Council, we understand the needs and concerns of our unique communities. There are currently 222 CRAs in Florida, seven in Martin County alone. These seven CRAs represent very distinct communities throughout unincorporated Martin County; Hobe Sound, Port Salerno, Rio, Jensen Beach, Palm City, Indiantown and Golden Gate. Volunteers within these CRA's have spent years developing community redevelopment plans, with the input of hundreds of stakeholders and citizens, who wish to improve infrastructure and inspire private investment while making their neighborhoods safer.

CRA monies are locally generated through tax increment financing (TIF), collected, and spent locally for redevelopment. This financing system is successful because it fosters public private partnerships and strategic growth. In Martin County, this public private partnership has proven to be especially important as the seven CRAs are completely unique in their community needs, vision, landscape and assets yet not self-governing, relying on Martin County.

Martin County's CRA is governed by a board of appointed volunteers that report to the Board of County Commissioners. Each representative also serves on their area's Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC). The concept of government by the people and for the people is evident



# *Council of Chambers of Martin County*

throughout the State's CRAs. Citizens are proud to invest in their communities. The Council of Chambers and the Economic Council of Martin County strongly supports Community Redevelopment Areas. Therefore, we urge your support for the retention of locally governed CRAs in Florida.

We thank you for your consideration and your continued work making Florida the best place to live and work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Angela Hoffman*  
Executive Director  
Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce

*Mary Patchunka-Smith*  
Executive Director  
Indiantown Chamber of Commerce

*Ron Rose*  
Executive Director  
Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce

*Carolyn Davi*  
Executive Director  
Palm City Chamber of Commerce

*Joe Catrambone*  
President/ CEO  
Stuart/ Martin Chamber of Commerce

*Ted Astolfi*  
CEO  
Economic Council of Martin County

cc: Senate President Joe Negron, Senator Tom Lee, Representative Mary Lynn Magar, Representative Gayle Harrell

