



**TO:** CRA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** June 18, 2013

**TITLE:** Amending the Northwest–Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Plan

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the CRA Board pass a motion recommending the Fort Lauderdale City Commission amend the Northwest–Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Plan to include a Community Policing Program, the installation of a Wireless Security Camera System, and the development and installation of a Public Wireless Local Area Network (Wi-Fi).

**Background**

The redevelopment plan for the Northwest–Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area (NPF CRA) was created in 1995 and amended in 2001. The original plan and the subsequent amendment created a workable development program that identified certain projects and initiatives that could be implemented within a 30-year span. The redevelopment plan identified various community redevelopment tactics and strategies that would be used to facilitate the construction of physical improvements and other projects within the NPF CRA.

The physical improvements and projects include, but are not limited to, neighborhood housing improvements, infrastructure improvement projects, the Sistrunk Corridor improvements, the Northwest Commercial Revitalization project, and the Flagler Village housing development program. The improvements and programs previously listed have positively impacted the overall quality of life for the residential and commercial interests within the NPF CRA.

Procedurally, amending a CRA redevelopment plan consists of three basic steps, as outlined in section 163.361, Florida Statutes and summarized below:

- Step 1: The Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency shall recommend to the City Commission that the amendment(s) be made to the Redevelopment Plan. [anticipated on June 18, 2013]
- Step 2: The City Commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed plan amendment. Mail notice to each taxing authority which levies ad valorem taxes

on taxable real property contained within the geographic boundaries of the redevelopment area must be provided at least 15 days before the public hearing, and newspaper notice in a publication having a general circulation in the area of operation of the agency, shall be provided at least 10 days before the public hearing. [anticipated on August 20, 2013]

- Step 3 - The redevelopment plan amendment must be reviewed and approved by Broward County. [anticipated for October 2013]

### **Proposed Amendments to the Redevelopment Plan**

The amendment consists of three new projects proposed to be included in the Community Redevelopment Plan:

Community Policing Program Initiative. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has stepped up enforcement efforts within the district since the completion of the NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street/Sistrunk streetscape enhancement project. It is recommended that these community policing strategies continue as long as NPF CRA funds are available and until sunset of the trust fund in 2025. Some of the activities that are being supported under this initiative include opening a police substation for enhanced security in the heart of the Midtown Business District.

Wireless Surveillance Camera System. The Community Policing initiative will be further enhanced by the installation of a Wireless Surveillance Camera System that utilizes the latest technology to aid crime prevention activities in the redevelopment district. The surveillance cameras are proposed to be installed on the light poles or private property throughout the redevelopment area.

Public Wi-Fi System. A wireless area local network or Wi-Fi is being proposed to provide a unique public digital amenity which will aid our efforts to promote the redevelopment district as a great place to live and operate a business. A public Wi-Fi system will also provide the opportunity to continuously inform residents and visitors on a platform like Channel 78. A public Wi-Fi system may also be used as a business recruitment and job creation tool for companies looking to expand and relocate to the NPF CRA district.

The estimated one time cost of incorporating these new projects and activities into the redevelopment plan is approximately \$378,000 which would be funded through the NPF CRA Redevelopment Trust Fund. The annual expense for Community Policing is estimated at \$20,000, at this time. The annual expense for surveillance cameras and Wi-Fi are yet to be determined. As of March 30, 2013, the NPF CRA has an uncommitted project balance of \$2,409,063. Additionally, as of March 30, 2013 the following balances are available in the 2004 NPF CRA Bonds:

- Fund 320 (2004A Tax Increment Revenue Non-Alternative Minimum Tax) - \$732,785

- Fund 322 (2004B Tax Increment Revenue Alternative Minimum Tax) - \$1,131,146

The 2004A bond proceeds may be utilized for the surveillance camera and public Wi-Fi if spent prior to September 30, 2013.

**Resource Impact**

No Resource Impact at this time.

Related CAM: 13-0741 (July 2, 2013)

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Florida Statutes Chapter 163.361

Exhibit 2 – Financial Projection for NPF CRA FY 2014-2025

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