

Bobbi Roy

From: Lisa Barrett
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 4:57 PM
To: Bobbi Roy
Cc: Margaret Tusing
Subject: FW: Chamber Letter in Support of Proposed Comp Plan Changes
Attachments: BOCC Support for Proposed Comp Plan Changes.pdf

Will you include for Public Comment?

Thank you,
Lisa Barrett
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From: Michael Gallen [mailto:michaelg@manateechamber.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 4:44 PM
To: Priscilla WhisenantTrace <priscilla.whisenanttrace@mymanatee.org>; Stephen R Jonsson <steve.jonsson@mymanatee.org>; Betsy Benac <betsy.benac@mymanatee.org>; Carol Whitmore <carol.whitmore@mymanatee.org>; Charles Smith <Charles.Smith@mymanatee.org>; Robin DiSabatino <robin.disabatino@mymanatee.org>; Vanessa Baugh <vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org>
Cc: Ed Hunzeker <ed.hunzeker@mymanatee.org>; John Barnott <john.barnott@mymanatee.org>; Lisa Barrett <lisa.barrett@mymanatee.org>; Dan Schlandt <dan.schlandt@mymanatee.org>; Cheri Coryea <cheri.coryea@mymanatee.org>; Geri Lopez <geri.lopez@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Chamber Letter in Support of Proposed Comp Plan Changes

Honorable Commissioner Trace,

The Manatee Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan. The recommendations submitted by County staff and S&ME Inc. bring forth the necessary changes that provide opportunities for creative solutions to address the affordable housing crisis, in addition to community revitalization through redevelopment.

We encourage the Board of County Commissioners to approve this item at the June 7 Transmittal Public Hearing.

Please find the attached letter of support on behalf of the Chamber Board and our business members. Original copy will be delivered to your office.

Thank you for your consideration and service to our community.

My best,

Michael

Michael Gallen, Esq.

Vice President Public Policy & Small Business

Manatee Chamber of Commerce

941-748-4842, ext. 124

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[Thank You to Our Platinum Members:](#) Blalock Walters Attorneys; Bradenton Herald; Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC; MCR Health Services/ALLCARE OPTIONS; Manatee County Government; Manatee Memorial Hospital; The Mosaic Company; NDC Construction Company; Pittsburgh Pirates / Bradenton Marauders; Raymond James Wealth Management / W. Bruce Body; Sarasota Bradenton International Airport.

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Priscilla Trace
Manatee County Government
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205-1000



Dear Commissioner Trace,

The Manatee Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan. The recommendations submitted by County staff and S&ME Inc. bring forth the necessary changes that provide opportunities for creative solutions to address the affordable housing crisis, in addition to community revitalization through redevelopment.

The lack of affordable housing stock in our community and the obstacles this creates for our businesses to attract and retain talent has been a common theme at recent Chamber roundtables and the Chamber's Leadership Retreat. Advocating for diverse housing options for our community's workforce is a Chamber priority. The Chamber's Infill Committee, Downtown Redevelopment Committee and Attainable Housing Task Force continue efforts to address this critical issue, by facilitating dialogue between key stakeholders, elected officials, government staff, and business and organization leaders.

Similar to the award winning Urban Corridors Plan adopted by the Board of County Commissioners last year, the proposed changes will apply countywide and seek to increase density and mixed-use development at activity nodes while providing a shorter, less expensive, more predictable development review and approval process. The Chamber believes that this initiative supports the ULI report and the goals of the County for reinvestment in the urban areas of the County, in addition to providing workforce-housing solutions.

We understand it is not the responsibility of government to solve the workforce housing issue, however; government does play a key role. We believe that adoption of the proposed amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan is a necessary first step to begin the process to address this important issue.

Redevelopment will substantially increase tax revenue, and coupled with reinvestment through the Southwest County Tax Increment Finance District, will allow the County to leverage its resources to further spur revitalization efforts. We believe these efforts will contribute to the retention of our current and future workforce by creating economic opportunities and lifestyle choices through a diverse mix of housing options, infrastructure, multi-modal transportation, social and business opportunities.

As our land development code and comprehensive plan evolve, we encourage continued efforts to promote smart and responsible urban infill and redevelopment, this type of revitalization will enhance our community's quality of life and build a strong business environment.

The Chamber appreciates your consideration of our recommendation.

Sincerely,



Darci Duncan
Chairman of the Board