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March 21, 2013

Dear Citizens

We are very pleased to report on the activities and progress of the Panama City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) in FY 2012. The agency is required by Florida Statutes 163 part III to issue this annual report updating the citizens of the community and the CRA funding agencies on our progress.

As a staff Department of the City, the mission of the CRA is to remove elements of slum and blight in our community and turn around the economic fortunes of distressed areas in the City. This is done by forming plans in concert with the community and implementing those plans to improve the economic climate and conditions in the appropriate target areas. Currently, there are four (4) CRA Districts designated under the provisions of the law here in Panama City. Those areas are the Downtown, Downtown North, St. Andrews and Millville. A key aspect of the CRA’s focus and mission is to bring back jobs, attract investment and improve the social and environmental conditions found in the community that will gradually reverse the blighting conditions we see in some portions of the City.

We are truly excited this year to report that there has been significant progress in implementing several CRA projects. Listed below are just a few brief highlights you will find in this report:

- Reduced Crime incidents in Downtown & Downtown North through increased community policing efforts and partnerships - down 30% overall (PCPD)
- Cleaned up numerous derelict vessels in City waterways
- Completed planning efforts for a major renovation of the Downtown Marina
- Initiated major clean-up of public properties, rights-of-way and parcels in the Downtown North
- Initiated construction of new Park improvements in Millville and Downtown North
- Completed important Park Improvement in St. Andrews- Oaks by the Bay
- Awarded renovation grants that improved the appearance and tax base of the community

All these efforts and many more will improve the safety, aesthetics, investment climate and quality of life for the citizens of our great City. I am pleased to provide you with this report so that the citizens and funding agencies can learn more about the outstanding progress being made by the CRA. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering your time, please feel free to contact me, the CRA Office or any member of the City Commission. The complete financial statements are available on the CRA website or by contacting the CRA office at 215-3869. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Sincerely,

Greg Brudnicki, CRA
Chairman

Annual Report FY2012|Panama City CRA
Introduction

The Panama City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has four (4) Districts. Those Districts are the Downtown created in 1984, St. Andrews created in 1989, the Downtown North created in 1993 and Millville created in 2004. Please see the map in this report. Each District works with citizen based advisory committees to form plans to reverse blighted conditions. Dollars generated by local property tax growth are used to fund projects and programs to implement the plans developed.

Code Enforcement Software

The CRA has partnered with the Panama City Police Dept. Code Enforcement operations to initiate a new effort that would automate the Code Enforcement process. In June 2012, the CRA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to purchase Comcate software for use by the City Code Enforcement staff. The new software and related laptop computers will allow more Code Enforcement cases to be processed. A total of $27,800.00 was allocated towards this effort. Since the majority of existing code cases fall in the CRA, Code Enforcement will work even closer with the various CRA Districts to step up enforcement efforts. The new efficiencies should translate into more cases that have better documentation. In turn, CRA staff will follow-up and make sure citizen complaints are coordinated to better target blighted areas.
District-Wide Updates - Grants
The CRA grant program has been very successful thus far. Since the new Program was started in October 2011, we have awarded approx. 28 grants totaling $150,436. Grants awarded have leveraged over $377,000 in investment and created and or sustained 51 jobs. We continue to get new requests daily and each District manages the funds available to get the maximum possible economic impact for the community. A July 2012 News Herald article on the Program highlights the accomplishments of this important effort.

Community Policing
Community Policing is a collaborative partnership between the Panama City Police Department, the two funding CRA Districts (Downtown and Downtown North CRA) and the community. The main purpose is to decrease crime and provide a safer environment for residents and business owners in the CRA. The Community Policing Program has strengthened community partnerships within the City and has created a shared responsibility for identifying, reducing, eliminating and preventing problems that impact safety. Identifying and prioritizing problems, researching and developing solutions to the issues, and evaluating the success of the responses has created a 30% reduction in overall arrest rates! Nuisance crimes have also been reduced by 50%, trespassing has been reduced by 52%, alcohol offenses have been reduced by 46%, disorderly conduct/intoxication has been reduced by 50% and failing to register as a sex offender has been reduced by 93.7%. The strategies developed by these partnerships have become a successful safeguard in creating a safer environment in the Downtown and Downtown North CRA Districts. By mobilizing the efforts and resources of the police, the community and local government, 2012 was a year we all worked together to make positive changes happen!

CRA Financial Information FY 2012

CRA BUDGET BY EXPENDITURES
Total - $4,177,611
- Operating $1,894,308
- Capital Outlay $1,700,455
- Personnel Services $425,795
- Debt $156,052

CRA BUDGET BY DISTRICT
Total - $4,177,611
- Downtown $677,568
- Millville $742,547
- Downtown North $2,247,743
- St. Andrews $509,733
Panama City Community Redevelopment Agency

History of the Panama City CRA-Highlights

**Downtown District**
Established in 1984
Past Projects:
- McKenzie Park renovation, Streetscape, Business grants, Community Policing
Upcoming Projects:
- Marina redevelopment, Sidewalk cafes, Storm water projects

**St. Andrews District**
Established in 1989
Past Projects:
- Streetscape, Historic tours, Park renovations, Business grants, Holiday Celebrations
Upcoming Projects:
- Parking improvements, Boardwalk improvements, Farmer's market

**Downtown North District**
Established in 1993; Plan update 2010
Past Projects:
- MLK beautification, Clean-up, Community policing, Code Enforcement programs
Upcoming Projects:
- A. D. Harris Learning Village, Sidewalks Projects, Jenks corridor improvements, African-American Cultural Heritage Tourism District master plan

**Millville District**
Established in 2004
Past Projects:
- Gateway improvements, Derelict vessel removal, water way clean-up
Upcoming Projects:
- Park improvements, Residential/Business grants, ROW improvements

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How Does the CRA Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Work?

- **Base Values**: Taxes generated by Base AV are passed through to each tax agency
- **Incremental Values CRA (TIF) Funding**: Taxes generated by the Incremental AV are used to pay for qualifying projects
- **Post CRA (TIF) Values**: After TIF is terminated, all taxes are passed through to each tax agency

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Annual Report FY2012 | Panama City CRA
Marina Master Plan Update
The implementation of the Panama City Marina Redevelopment Master Plan has moved forward in 2012. Actions taken by the CRA have brought the redevelopment of the Panama City Marina much closer towards construction. The hard work and efforts of the citizens of Panama City, Downtown CRA, CRA Board, elected City Officials and the AECOM Design Team will be celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony in the Spring of 2013. The Panama City Marina is a great asset to Panama City. The Marina provides a mix of economic, recreational and transportation opportunities that will be greatly enhanced by the redevelopment plans. Residents, businesses, boaters and tourists are excited about the additional opportunities and uses this great attraction will bring! Not to mention the renovations to the seawall infrastructure that will keep the Marina functional for many more years to come.

To learn more about this historic revitalization project, go to: www.pcgov.org/residents/panama-city-community-redevelopment-agency-cra/downtown-district

Lighthouse
After ten years of imagining, the Panama City Lighthouse Board, Inc., the Downtown CRA and City Officials have designed and are working towards a plan for creating a fully functional lighthouse that will begin construction in 2013. The 88 ft. Panama City Lighthouse will brand Panama City, serve as a fun attraction for Bay County citizens and provide potential revenue for the Marina Project and the City of Panama City for many years to come.

If you would you like to see or become part of this historical project go to: www.panamacitylighthouse.com

Gulf Coast State College Intern Partnership
The CRA recognizes that there are many gifted students who are interested in a career in local government. The CRA has entered into a new partnership with Gulf Coast State College this year to find their most talented students to become a part of our daily operations. In addition to being a part of our local governing process, students are able to earn course credits for the time spent on the job.
Downtown District

Dickens of a Christmas Celebration!
The Downtown CRA shared resources with the DIB, Main Street and Downtown Christmas Committee to offer a truly special ‘Dickens of a Christmas’ celebration! Some of the attractions and special events included an ice skating rink, carriage rides, photos with Santa, pony rides for children, carolers, singing groups and kid’s winter snow play area. For the first time since the 1980s, activities were held in the old Marie Hotel. This local landmark had been closed for decades and having the Marie open again gave a definite boost of optimism to the Downtown. Thousands of people came to our Historic Downtown Panama City to enjoy this yearly Christmas season event held along Harrison Avenue!

Economic Garden Pilot Project
The Downtown CRA partnered with Gulf Coast State College to implement the Economic Garden Pilot Project due to the growing need for businesses to increase their customer base and profitability. The Economic Garden Pilot Project proved to be a successful tool in providing our historic Downtown business owners with valuable training and consulting services. The Economic Garden Pilot Project focused on providing marketing tools for businesses to target new customers, helped provide advanced technology information training for social media and internet forums. The Garden also made available assistance in developing a working business plan to help obtain small business financing and create a more profitable business operation.

Grants
The Downtown CRA has obtained great success with the Residential and Commercial Improvement Grant Program adopted by the CRA Board in 2011. In the Downtown CRA, 11 grants were awarded totaling $40,000. The total number of jobs created or sustained by the CRA grants is 25. There has been an estimated $350,000 reinvestment back into the community because of the grants program. We are excited to see the improvements taking place Downtown and we look forward to future success next year!
Downtown District

300 Block of Harrison Avenue

Downtown District Financial Information

Downtown District Expenditures

Total - $677,568

- Operating $485,446
- Capital Outlay $127,138
- Personnel Services $60,984

Total - $677,568

- Certified Forward $410,900
- TIF - County $131,279
- TIF - City $133,689

Downtown District Revenues
The Panama City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has initiated a new community clean-up initiative in the Downtown North called the "Clean-up and Abatement (CAP) Program." The CAP Program seeks to clean-up both public and private property in order to draw business investment and build neighborhood pride in the Downtown North CRA area.

While there are many legs to the program there are two (2) major portions of the CAP initiative. The first is the clean-up of public alleyways. On Monday, March 5th, the clean-up crew initiated their work at an alley located off MLK and Hamilton Ave. Since then, the crew has been busy cleaning public alley ways in the District. So far, the crew has cleaned 47 alleys; a total of 547,266 square feet, 13,506 linear feet, consisting of 2,837 man hours and 6,600 lbs of trash removed.

The second portion of the CAP Program is to engage the community in helping clean-up private properties with owners' permission and begin taking pride in overall neighborhood appearance. Another step in this effort involves helping seniors or members of the community who are physically unable to clean-up. An organizational meeting was held on Saturday, April 14th at A.D. Harris Learning Village to engage many community groups and partners in this volunteer clean-up effort. A partner in the CAP Program, members of the Glenwood Working Partnership and youth groups were in attendance. The Downtown North CRA district also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Gulf Coast Workforce Board to provide Community Engagement services. The heart of this program is about inspiring neighbors to be motivated and active in changing their neighborhoods from within. The CAP Program is designed to forge new connections in the community and motivate neighbors to define and capture the lasting changes they want to see in their neighborhoods. Another key partnership with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board and the CRA provides an important support structure for conducting these activities. Students from two local high schools, Bay and Rutherford enrolled in the Striving Toward Achieving Real Success (STARS) assist with monthly clean ups. The goal of STARS is for students to achieve a high school diploma. It also offers career and educational development as well as counseling and drop-out prevention programming, work experience through jobs in the private sector, internships and volunteer positions. Stars have been a tremendous help in CAP neighborhood clean-up projects.
Sidewalk Network Improvements

Sidewalks are the building blocks of an effective pedestrian network. Walking is the most basic form of transportation and the sidewalk is the most typical form of infrastructure provided to connect neighborhoods. In general, the ability to reach a destination depends on a person's speed, coordination, endurance and the types of obstacles, grades and cross-slopes he or she encounters along the way. Design and construction practices are key in determining the attractiveness, convenience and usability of a sidewalk.

The Downtown North CRA district initiated a sidewalk program bringing sidewalks to communities within its district that did not have this basic infrastructure. The following locations are receiving new sidewalks:

- **Cove Blvd- 6th Street (US Business 98)**
  south to 4th Street; both sides are within Downtown North and provide connectivity to northern Cove residents.
- **7th Street- West of MLK Blvd to Hamilton,**
  this will connect to existing sidewalk
- **12th Street from Harmon Avenue (southern side of 12th street)**
  west to Jenks Avenue - only the south side of 12th Street is in DTN;
  west to Jenks will tie into new improvements and provide connectivity for
  Bay High School.
- **Massalina Drive- south of 6th Street (US Business 98)**
  to 4th Street- providing connectivity for the residents of the
  northern Cove area.
- **Hamilton Avenue, north of 11th street to 13th street.**

The Sidewalk program is funded by the Downtown North CRA district. (Site selection based on Sidewalk Plan developed by Public Works but not funded.)

Jenks Professional Corridor

City officials expect ongoing Jenks Avenue construction to bring business diversity through aesthetics.

"The perception we are trying to create with these improvements is that there is another significant entrance to downtown," said City Manager Kenneth Hammons. "Currently the area is predominantly commercial with residences interspersed, and we want to make it ambiently pleasing for both."

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) partnered with the city for improvements along Jenks Avenue. The construction includes new lighting, bike lanes on both sides of the road, resurfacing and sidewalks from Sixth to 15th Street. Repaving of the railroad crossing, south of 15th Street, is also planned.
"We're trying to beautify the entrance into downtown from Jenks," said Mike Kazunas, City Engineer. "What everybody is going to see is a prettier approach to downtown from Jenks Avenue for drivers, pedestrians and bikers."

Kazunas said the road will remain open for the duration of the project with one exception — for repairs to the railroad crossing.

The entire project has three phases and is funded by three separate sources. Downtown kicked in $155,769; Downtown North, $789,499; and the city, $410,361.

Work is in the first phase of repairs from Sixth to Eighth Street and funded by the Downtown CRA, while crews have been busy smashing existing sidewalks and performing maintenance on water mains.

The next phase will be Downtown North's portion, spanning from Eighth to 12th Street. The final leg of construction is the city's portion of the project, from 12th to 15th Street. The project in its entirety is estimated to cost around $1.4 million and expected to be finished by summer 2013.

The 43 Autobahn LED lights have an upfront cost of $23,792.76. The lighting improvement funds provided by the Downtown CRA are $2,213.28; Downtown North, $12,726.36; and Panama City will provide $8,853.12.

The estimated monthly cost to power the LED fixtures is $246.96. According to a July 2009 bill

Downtown North Financial Information

worksheet released by the city, the current fixtures cost around $253.51.

"The longer term goal is to create an environment for businesses to move into the area," Hammons said. "We want to create a new ambience that would lead from Highway 98 to the Downtown."
Lion Plaza Project Completed At Oaks by the Bay Park

The Lion Fountain has a new and permanent home in Oaks By The Bay Park. Through a collaborative effort between the St. Andrews CRA, the St. Andrews Waterfront Partnership and the City of Panama City, the Lion Plaza Project was envisioned in 2011. The CRA received a grant from the State of Florida for $25,000 to design & build the Lion Plaza and an information kiosk.

still speculation as to whether it was ever used to water horses. The Lion Fountain was moved to the St. Andrews Neighborhood of “Old Town” to Alpheaus Patrick Manghum’s property on West 10th Street in the 1920s. Manghum, born in 1881 in Alabama, was employed as a wholesale fish dealer and known for having an underground structure behind his house that contained a moonshine still during prohibition.

Manghum would change ownership of the 10th Street property from person to person in order to avoid the law taking the house because of the moonshine. In 1944, Harbormaster J.N. “Shady” Arnold and his wife Ann purchased the property, and with it the Lion Fountain. The fountain remained in the Arnolds’ front yard as a “bird bath” until the St. Andrews Methodist Church purchased the property in the late nineties. In 2009, the Church donated the fountain to the St. Andrews Community and it was moved to its current location in Oaks By The Bay Park. The Historic St. Andrews Waterfront Partnership in cooperation with the City of Panama City and CRA received a grant from the State of Florida Coastal Partnership Initiative to enhance the east entrance of the park; stabilize and preserve the historic Lion Fountain (now seasonal planter); and educate the public about the coastal resources of the St. Andrews Area.

New Name and 501c3 Status

The St. Andrews Waterfront Partnership went through some restructuring changes in 2012. The Partnership was originally organized as a 501(c)4 non-profit and received tax exempt status. However, the 501(c)4 status limited the Partnership on ability to get grant funding in many cases. The Board Members decided to start a new non-profit under the 501(c)3 designation in order to be eligible for grant funding on other related benefits of the 501(c)3 status. The new name of the non-profit is the Historic St. Andrews Waterfront Partnership. The former will dissolve as soon as the letter of determination is received from the IRS. The Form 1023 was submitted on January 2nd of this year.

Debt Service on Parking Lot and Publishing Museum Paid Off

The St. Andrews CRA borrowed the funds to purchase the Publishing Museum and the parking lot on Chestnut Street over five years ago. In February of 2012, the St. Andrews CRA made its final debt payment to the City of Panama City. The parking lot will be developed in FY2013. It will include improvements such as wheel stops, concrete drive aprons, curbing, and sidewalk connecting it to Beck Avenue.
Governor Stone's Home Port

The Friends of the Governor Stone held their annual meeting on January 12th at the Harbor Village Condominiums. At the meeting, President Harry Dennard made a presentation recognizing the contributions of the St. Andrews CRA and Historic St. Andrews Waterfront Partnership for their support of the Governor Stone. Senior Captain Bill Hamilton gave a short presentation on the status of grants and fundraising for the anticipated repair and historical restoration project planned for this fall.

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Governor Stone passed a resolution notifying the National Park Service that St. Andrews is designated as the home port of the Governor Stone. The Friends of the Governor Stone will continue to focus on regional membership and public events at ports of call throughout the Florida Panhandle.

During the meeting, a local artist named Dana Grubbs shared his talents with attendees by performing a song written specifically for the Governor Stone. The song can be found on YouTube under Dana Grubbs. Dana is also a painter and painted a portrait of the Governor Stone. The painting was presented as gift to the CRA & Partnership. The painting has been proudly hung in the Publishing Museum for enjoyment by the entire community.

St. Andrews District Financial Information
Millville District

Waterfronts Florida Graduate Community

It's official! Millville is a graduate community of the Waterfronts Florida Program. As part of the final phase of designation, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity provided a $37,500 grant to jump start the implementation of the Millville Waterfront Vision Plan. This funding allowed for further documentation of redevelopment opportunities, direction on integrating the Vision into the existing City policy framework, and reimbursement of a portion of the fishing pier design for Millville Waterfront Park. As a waterfront community, we will continue to receive technical assistance, grant information, as well as training and education to help implement the Vision Plan.

Improvement Assistance Program

The Community Redevelopment Agency Commercial/Residential Improvement Assistance Program grants are off to a great start. The grants are a 50% matching grant toward exterior improvements or a $900 paint voucher for homes or businesses. In the first full year of the program, the CRA has granted a total of $18,771.81 and leveraged a total of $36,653.56 in improvements within the Millville community. Sweat equity is encouraged and can substituted as part of the match funds. This means, if grantees do the work in lieu of hiring someone for items that do not require a licensed contractor, their labor will go towards their 50% match portion of the grant. This represents great opportunity for citizens to get their property in improved.

Millville Community Clean-Up

The CRA provides funding for "Clean-Up Day" in Millville bi-annually. This is an ongoing effort to eradicate blight in the community neighborhood by providing residents the opportunity to clean up and get rid of items that need to be taken to the landfill. The Panama City Solid Waste Department picks up large items and other trash that the City typically charges an additional fee for pick-up. The CRA coordinates with community volunteers to assist those in need with getting their items to the curb. In October, seven twenty-yard loads of trash and debris were removed during the Millville Clean-Up Day.

In June, the Millville CRA teamed-up with the Downtown North CRA, Work Force Board, Habitat for Humanity, and a group of volunteers from Malesus Baptist Church in Jackson, Tennessee to clean up the community. We raked and cleaned yards as well as picked up trash around the Millville welcome sign by the Watson Bayou Bridge.

In October, the CRA participated in the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. A small group of volunteers removed trash and debris along both sides of the Watson Bayou bridge. This included 150lbs of trash, a bicycle, and folding chair.
Millville District

Waterfront Park Fishing Pier

The CRA continues to develop the Millville Waterfront Park as a community focal point and catalyst project for redevelopment. In 2012, the second phase of park development included the construction of a community fishing pier. The pier provides one of the only public access points to Watson Bayou in Millville. Subsequent park development phases will further enhance the park's role as a multifunction destination for recreation, personal fitness, and community events.

Derelict Vessel Initiative

The CRA provided the initial funding for the Panama City Police Department (PCPD) Derelict Vessel Program. This funding provided for the removal of the first five vessels from Watson Bayou. Through the dedication of the PCPD and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) with additional funding from the Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) and several property owners, the removal of vessels continued through 2012. The number of vessels removed from Watson Bayou and the surrounding waterways totaled 30. Eleven at risk or derelict vessels were removed or corrected by the owners as result of the program. Also, 12 abandoned/illegal moorings were removed from Watson Bayou. These efforts not only eliminated blight, but removed navigation hazards, pollution sources, and potential havens for crime and vagrant activity from the area.

Millville District Financial Information

**Millville Expenditures**

Total - $742,547

- Operating $206,548
- Capital Outlay $278,236
- Personnel Services $101,711
- Debt $156,052

**Millville Revenues**

Total - $742,547

- Certified Forward $446,225
- Interest $3,600
- TIF - County $145,028
- TIF - City $147,690
Panama City Community Redevelopment Agency

Community Based Volunteers and Partners

Last fiscal year was very exciting and the Panama City CRA accomplished many projects to revitalize and redevelop our community. We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the many volunteers and partner organizations that have continued to demonstrate their support by participating on the various CRA committees. Our committees and partners include: Glenwood Working Partnership, Inc., the Downtown North/GWP Design and Planning Committee, Downtown Northwest Advisory Committee, the A. D. Harris Improvement Society, Inc., the Neighborhood Watch committees, the Millville Community Alliance, the Historic St. Andrews Waterfront Partnership, Bay County, various City Departments, Friends of Governor Stone, the Downtown Advisory Committee, the Downtown Improvement Board, Panama City Lighthouse Project Inc., Main Street, Gulf Coast Workforce Board, United Way of Bay County, STARS Program, and many other various churches and community groups. We salute our volunteers and understand that we could not accomplish our goals without their tireless dedication and support. The assistance and partnership rendered by these organizations is instrumental in making our community a better place to live, work and play. Thank you!

FY 2011 CRA Board Members
Greg Brudnicki – Chairman
Billy Rader – Vice Chairman
John Kady
Kenneth Brown
Mike Nichols

Contact information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ken Hammons</td>
<td>City Manager</td>
<td>850-872-3010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Brown</td>
<td>Assistant City Manager</td>
<td>850-872-3010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William R Whitson</td>
<td>CRA Director, Downtown CRA Manager</td>
<td>850-215-3869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onya Bates</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>850-215-3869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Rosner</td>
<td>St. Andrews CRA Manager</td>
<td>850-215-3871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toni Shamplain</td>
<td>Downtown North CRA Manager</td>
<td>850-215-3872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Whaler</td>
<td>Millville CRA Manager</td>
<td>850-215-3873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristy Miller</td>
<td>Downtown/Downtown North Program Assistant</td>
<td>850-215-3837</td>
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Panama City Community Redevelopment Agency
803 Jenks Avenue, Suite 1
Panama City, Florida 32401
Phone: 850-215-3869
Fax: 850-215-3860

See Our Website at www.pc.gov.org

Go to the Community Redevelopment link to learn more about our Programs and Committees, review detailed financial information, or how you can get involved and participate.