

# The Future of Panama City Guiding Principles

## 1. Utilities

Provide adequate sewage capacity and collection facilities to accommodate anticipated population demand.

### A. Electrical

Subterranean service with redundancy and resiliency to withstand catastrophic manmade and natural disasters.

### B. Water

Replace existing distribution systems in order to provide adequate, safe, and sanitary water distribution capability to accommodate existing and future demand leveraging 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. Establish resilient and redundant fortified systems to sustain key infrastructure and nodes.

### C. Sewer

Replace existing sewer collection, transmission and treatment systems that preserve the environment utilizing effective technologies to collect, treat and discharge effluent in more environmentally sensitive manners. Remove surface water discharge and establish reuse distribution system in order to protect the City's 51 miles of coastline and the fragile St Andrew Bay system and Gulf of Mexico ecosystems.

### D. Stormwater

Provide a drainage program which will reduce stormwater pollution and provide reasonable protection from flood damage to public and private property. Leverage advances in technology in roadway and parking construction to eliminate unfettered direct discharge in to the bay.

### E. Communication

Become a model city for 5g capability that enables the internet of things, open data, and smart retail, mobility, health, government, energy, education and agriculture. Establish WiFi internet access in public spaces. Ensure redundancies and resilience to enable continual communication during catastrophic events.

### F. Solid Waste

Ensure that adequate and efficient solid waste collection is available for the city. Incorporate technology to reward disposal efficiencies and the reduction in solid waste generation by promoting recycling and other methodologies. Increase hazardous waste disposal opportunities for citizens in order to protect land and groundwater quality.

### G. Groundwater

Protect and conserve the Floridan aquifer.

## **2. Transportation**

Establish and maintain a safe, convenient, and efficient multi-modal transportation system to move people and goods locally, regionally and globally. Develop mass transit capabilities that sustain the dynamic needs of our citizens and visitors. Deepen the intercoastal waterway to facilitate safe navigation. Increase non-motorized transportation including pedestrian and bicycle pathways which promote healthy lifestyles. Conduct traffic circulation review to determine whether traffic flows, intersections and corridors are contributing to the most efficient movement of persons and products.

## **3. Environmental**

Restrict development activities which damage or destroy coastal resources. Reduce the risk of hurricane-related damage to life and property by hardening, improving resiliency and providing redundant systems to protect persons and property. Provide, or have available, adequate areas for public waterfront access. Provide the circumstances necessary for the conservation and protection of natural and public health related resources. Protect natural resources.

## **4. Energy**

Generate renewable power by investing in solar and wind technologies. Create energy use efficiencies.

## **5. Agriculture**

Plant 100,000 trees by 2025. Restore qualification for Tree City USA designation. Create a Tree Board comprised of professional foresters, arborists and city officials which will be responsible for tending to the protection of trees within the city. Review and implement a tree care ordinance that promotes the planting, maintaining and responsible removal of trees from the community. Panama City will promote the investment in community forest programs. Panama City's urban forest is made up of trees, vegetation and other components that are invaluable to the wellbeing and identity of our community. Create Grow Zones for trees and vegetation. Inventory champion trees and implement measures to protect and preserve their wellbeing. Consider rebates and incentives to preserve and increase the urban forest and vegetative canopies. Leverage key partnerships with National State Foresters, National Arbor Day Foundation and others.

Implement programs with incentives and rebates that promote and increase the production of fruits, berries, vegetables and other agricultural production. Establish locations for bee hives to facilitate pollination of agricultural and ornamental plants.

## **6. Economic Development**

*Hurricane Michael Response: pursue Internal Revenue Service relief on behalf of employers and individuals, consistent with relief provided during other hurricanes across the nation, in order to provide regulatory and tax relief, access to low interest funds, elimination of penalties for withdrawals from retirement accounts and other relief.*

*Consideration should be made for the potential for a reduction in ad valorem tax revenue to the City as well as reduced sales tax and gross receipts revenue. These revenue losses may continue for a number of years.*

Promote an economic climate which provides economic stability, maximizes job opportunities, and increases per capita income for city residents.

**A. Industry**

- i. Eastern Shipbuilding Group. ESG underpins the national defense particularly in direct support to the United States Coast Guard and vital national shipping interests. Facilitate ESG as a National Security Industrial Base that contributes to our national security and the free world. Facilitate expansion of ESG operations.
- ii. Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport and Commerce Park. Diligently pursue the continual increase in enplanements and expand additional destinations. Support placement of strategic employers in the Commerce Park as well as infrastructure and workforce training programs to support them.
- iii. Papermill. Continue to support papermill operations.
- iv. Port. Harden bulkheads and deep harbors and turning basins to ensure shipping operations at the Panama City Port, East Port Terminal and channels which connect our ports to Gulf of Mexico shipping lanes. Achieve depths of 45' and construct deeper and stronger bulkheads. Enhance rail capabilities and expand East Port Terminal operations. Deepen the intercoastal waterway to facilitate safe navigation.
- v. Rail. Restore safe and efficient rail operations which support the enhancement of industry and business domains within the city.
- vi. Others. Diligently pursue and incentivize additional employers who increase the average wages in the city.

**B. Opportunity Zones**

Expand Opportunity Zones from Hathaway Bridge to Port St Joe to attract private investment.

**C. Seafood**

Identify local seafood and fisheries products that are unique to our area. Promote, enhance and protect ecosystems and fisheries to ensure their sustainability. Establish fishery protection areas in the St Andrew Bay system for identified plant and animal species. Seek establishment of seagrass protection and growth areas as well as creation of artificial structures and features within the St Andrew Bay system. Coordinate with local restaurants and our tourism promotion partners to feature local fare. Develop national recognition of our local food and fare.

## 7. Education

Through coordination, provide adequate educational public facilities to school-aged children in bay county based on district-wide consistent measures.

- A. Primary and Secondary. Consider with Bay District Schools establishing a municipal charter school system including pre-kindergarten to high school within Panama City's municipal limits.
- B. Post-secondary. GCSC, FSU-PC, Haney Vocational-Technical School, Embry Riddle and Troy. Our secondary education system must be enhanced with additional curriculum, degrees and post-graduate degrees in order to develop and maintain a stable and credentialed workforce. This will prevent a brain drain when our best and brightest often leave Panama City seeking employment.

## 8. Medical

*Hurricane Response. Short and long-term housing will help retain employees, especially healthcare staff, to make hospital reopening timeline quicker. Post-acute care facilities, specifically skilled nursing and rehab beds need to be opened. Hospitals inability to discharge patients to these facilities will handicap hospitals' effectiveness. Regulatory cooperation is necessary to is necessary to facilitate startup activities and reopening.*

*Supplemental patient transportation is necessary until medical operations are back to normal. Regular transports to Fort Walton Beach, Pensacola and other regional medical facilities are necessary to deal with the extensive traveling related to Bay County patients.*

*We understand that supplemental emergency service transportation is being considered for decommissioning on Wednesday, October 31, 2018. This will jeopardize the ability of Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center and Bay Medical Center open for patients in the coming weeks.*

In support of the local economy as well as the national assets at Tyndall AFB, NSA Panama City and National Security Industrial Base, the city will cooperate with and support the interests of our medical facilities

## 9. Governance

Provide the circumstances and procedures to promote coordination between the city, adjacent cities, bay county, and other appropriate governmental agencies on efficient and effective delivery of services, reduction of conflicts arising from development decisions, and protection of natural resources.

Increase planning activities and coordination between other local governments. Contribute to successful emergency management activities including hazard mitigation, preparedness, and recovery. Ensure public school facilities which support excellent education for our children.

## 10. Technology

With the anticipated improvement and redundancy in the 5G technology, Panama City will be a magnet for technology-based industries and companies. Education and training programs will be developed to train and re-train a committed and dedicated workforce of the community.

## 11. Quality of Life

- A. **Parks and Recreation.** Provide excellent, equitably distributed, and age and ability appropriate recreation opportunities through a combination of public and private facilities. Protect and enhance locally and regionally significant natural resources when developing park sites. Develop, improve and maintain passive and active recreational and open spaces. Expand the partnership with Bay District Schools to jointly use public facilities for school and tourism related activities.
- B. **Creatives.** Expand, promote and further incorporate art, music, performing arts and all other cultural enrichment opportunities in our community by restoring and re-establishing the Civic Center, Panama City Center for the Arts and the Martin Theater. Partner with Bay District School on the use of Nelson Family Performing Arts Theater at Bay High School. Ensure additional locations, interior and exterior, for the display of various art forms, performances and static displays.

## 12. Housing

*Hurricane Michael Relief. Immediate short and medium-term housing options need to be opened to handle the current and projected needs for shelter housing. Daycare at the temporary housing locations is necessary to assist employees.*

### Goals:

1. Promote an adequate supply of safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for current and future residents in very low- to moderate-income groups
2. Provide for the elimination of substandard housing units.
3. Support the location of group housing in appropriate locations.
4. Protect existing, stable neighborhoods from blight.
5. Ensure adequate public facilities for residential development.
6. Encourage sustainable residential development.

## 13. Life Safety

Provide excellent police, fire, emergency health and other fire response service with acceptable response times.

## 14. Military Support

Aid in the retention and growth of Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity – Panama City and our National Security Industrial Base for current and future missions.

**15. Capital Improvements**

Establish the fiscal procedures and circumstances necessary for the timely and efficient provision of public facilities for existing and future populations through sound fiscal policies. Provide programs and measures to promote redevelopment of underutilized waterfront areas.

Develop strategies to anticipate potentially downward fluctuations in revenue due to economic shocks from Hurricane Michael.