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MEETING NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **July 23, 2026**. The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting in-person at the **Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Suwannee Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida**, and via Communications Media Technology at **7:00 p.m.**

To join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://meet.goto.com/269431029>

DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll Free: 1.866.899.4679

ACCESS CODE: 269 431 029

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

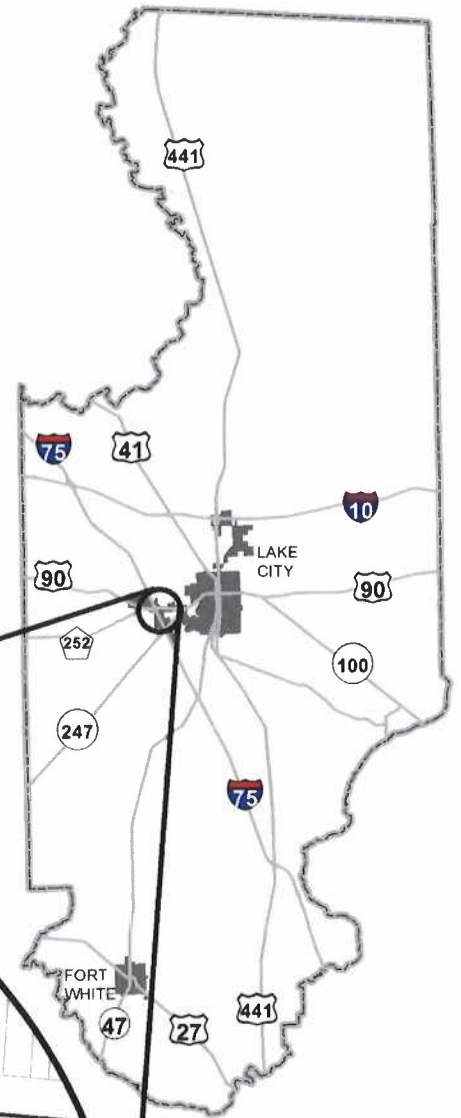
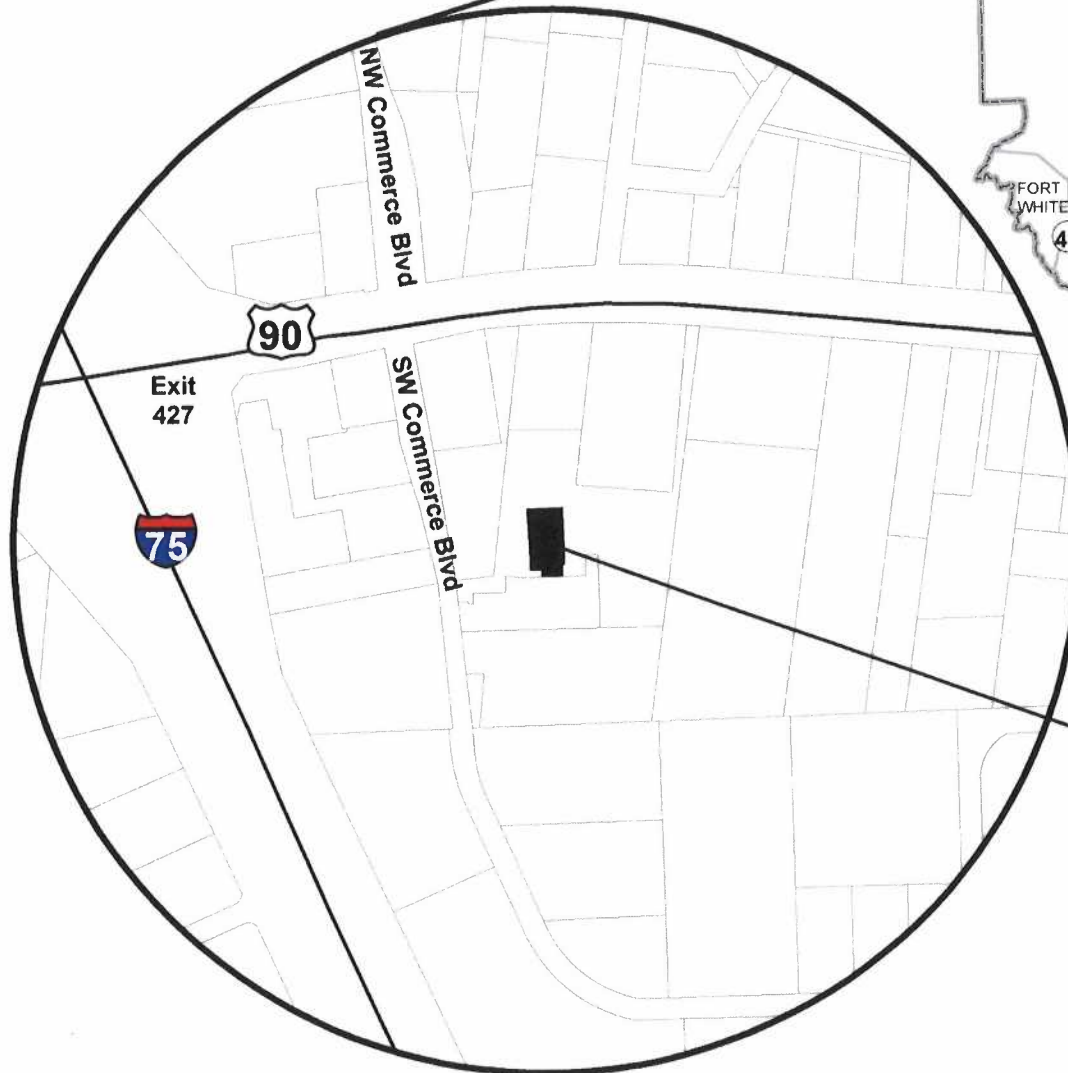
*Please email koons@ncfrpc.org by July 22, 2026 to let us know if you will be attending the meeting in-person or via communications media technology. **THANK YOU.***

Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.



1 inch = 500 feet

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AGENDA

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Hybrid Public Meeting
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard
Lake City, Florida and
Via Communications Media Technology

July 23, 2026
7:00 p.m.

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Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

1. #47 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 26-5ESR)

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Council welcomes you to this meeting. This time is set aside for our citizens and general public to address the Council. If you would like to address the Council, please complete a form, come to the podium when you are called, speak into the microphone and state your name for the record. Please also limit your comments to not more than three minutes. Your participation is welcomed.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

This agenda item provides an opportunity for Council members to make announcements concerning community events and local government projects.

XIII. NEXT MEETING - August 27, 2026

- * See Attachment

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

IV.A.

Hybrid Public Meeting
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida and
Via Communications Media Technology

June 29, 2026
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT
IN PERSON

Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Don Hale, Suwannee County
James Howell, Hamilton County
Ricky Jernigan, City of Lake City
Diane Landry, City of Perry
Kirk Marhefka, Town of Cross City
J.P. Moore, City of Madison
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
(FOR QUORUM)

Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Bryan Eastman, City of Gainesville
James Ingle, City of Gainesville
Donald Long, City of Newberry
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
(NOT FOR QUORUM)

Louie Davis, City of Waldo

MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
NON-VOTING DELEGATE ABSENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
Wayne Bloodsworth Jr., City of High Springs
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Rick Davis, Madison County
Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper
Melissa Hendrix, City of Lake Butler
Johnny Hiers, Levy County
Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer
Melissa McNeal, Union County
Kevin Parnell, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Austin Burgess, Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission - In-Person
Shannon Gore, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection - Virtual
David Tyler, Florida Department of
Transportation - In-Person

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis - Virtual
Jason Lauritsen - Virtual
Stew Lilker - In-Person
Rita Najin - In-Person
Christopher Wynn - In-Person

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons - In-Person
Garrison Vandegrift - In-Person

Executive Committee Members names are bold

I. INVOCATION

Vice-Chair Patricia Bouie Hutchinson noting a quorum being present called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler gave the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-Chair Bouie Hutchinson welcomed Rita Najin, wife of Council Member Ricky Jernigan; and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer. Also, in attendance at the meeting was Christopher Wynn, Regional Director, Northeast Region, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis attended the meeting virtually.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Bouie Hutchinson asked that the consent agenda be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Minutes - May 28, 2026
- B. Financial Report - May 2026
- C. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Update Hazardous Analyses - Fiscal Year 2026-27
- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointments
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Reappointments
- F. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Chair Appointment

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Vice-Chair Bouie Hutchinson asked that the regular agenda be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Hale made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Howell, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER – Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer
Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer, Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation. Mr. Lauritsen made a presentation concerning the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Vice-Chair Bouie Hutchinson thanked him for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

A. Resolution of Appreciation

1. James Carter Jr. - City of Lake City

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Councilman Jernigan, to authorize the Chair to sign a Resolution of Appreciation for former Council member James Carter Jr., City of Lake City. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Committee Appointments

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler to ratify the committee appointments for Program Year 2026-27 as recommended by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee -

1. Proclamation Proclaiming July 4, 2026 America 250 Day

Vice-Chair Bouie Hutchinson stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation proclaiming July 4, 2026 America 250 Day in the north central Florida region.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheeler made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Howell, to adopt the proclamation proclaiming July 4, 2026 America 250 Day in the north central Florida region, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner James Howell, Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met in person earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #40 - Town of Greenville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 26-1ER)
- #41 - City of Williston Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 26-1ER)
- #42 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 26-1ESR)
- #43 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 26-2ESR)
- #44 - Town of Bronson Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 26-1ESR)
- #45 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 26-1ESR)
- #46 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR)

Commissioner Howell stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Commissioner Howell made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #40 - Town of Greenville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 26-1ER); Item #41 - City of Williston Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 26-1ER); Item #42 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 26-1ESR); Item #43 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 26-2ESR); Item #44 - Town of Bronson Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 26-1ESR); Item #45 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 26-1ESR); and Item #46 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, reported that the District will be designing a wildlife crossing on U.S. Highway 19 at Bullfrog Creek in Levy County. He also noted that the Department, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, will be conducting a Teenager Driver Safety Campaign between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Austin Burgess, Senior Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, discussed the Florida Department of Transportation Efficient Transportation Decision Making tool used to evaluate highway construction project environmental impacts, including impacts on wildlife.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. He stated that the Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. Mr. Koons also stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the May 2026 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the May 2026 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. Mr. Koons noted that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars: Talent and Supply Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems, and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the June 2026 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Financial Disclosure Report Filing

Mr. Koons reported that all members of the Council are required to file a financial disclosure form by July 1st of each year. He stated that the financial disclosure form filed by county commissioners and city commissioners for their elected offices fulfills this requirement. Mr. Koons noted that local elected officials and all other filers are required to file the form online this year.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Demps announced that there will be fireworks displays on July 4, 2026 in Perry and Steinhatchee.

Commissioner Hale announced that there will be a parade on July 4, 2026 in Branford and that the Freedom Fest and America 250 Parade along with a firework display will held on July 4, 2026 in Live Oak.

Councilman Jernigan announced that there will be a fireworks display on July 4, 2026 at the Florida Gateway Fairgrounds in Lake City.

Mayor Moore reported that the City of Madison received a legislative appropriation in the amount of \$1.0 million for water and wastewater improvements.

Commissioner Stephenson announced that there will be fireworks displays on July 4, 2026 in Horseshoe Beach, Old Town and Suwannee.

Commissioner Wheeler announced that there will be fireworks displays on July 3, 2026 in Newberry and at the University of Florida in Gainesville, parades on July 4, 2026 in Micanopy and Newberry, and a fireworks display on July 4, 2026 in Alachua.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Vice-Chair Bouie Hutchinson stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on July 23, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Jhelecia Hawkins, Chair

7/23/26
Date

Resolution

OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, James Carter Jr. has been representing the City of Lake City on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since November 2024;

WHEREAS, James Carter Jr. has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to James Carter Jr. for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of James Carter Jr.

Jhelecia Hawkins, Chair

ATTEST:

Don Hale, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF JUNE 29, 2026.





PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING JULY 4, 2026 AS AMERICA 250 DAY

WHEREAS, on July 4, 2026, the United States of America will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the formation of our nation;

WHEREAS, our nation's 250th anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on our shared history, celebrate the contributions of Americans, and look forward to the future we want to build together;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has contributed proudly and significantly to the history of our region, state and nation;

WHEREAS, civic, cultural and historical education events will take place at the local, state and national levels to ensure all citizens can connect with this historic milestone;

WHEREAS, in 2016, the United States Congress established the America 250 Commission to encourage nationwide observance of this monumental semiquincentennial; and

WHEREAS, this milestone calls upon us to recognize the sacrifices made for our liberty and to reaffirm our commitment to democratic ideals, inspiring the next generation of citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims July 4, 2026 as America 250 Day throughout the north central Florida region and encourages all citizens of the north central Florida region to reflect upon our history, participate in local community events, and celebrate the enduring spirit of American Independence.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 29th day of June 2026.

ATTEST:

SEAL

Don Hale, Secretary

Jhelecia Hawkins, Chair



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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report - June 2026

Please find attached a copy of the Monthly Financial Report for the Council's activities for June 2026. The following paragraphs discuss revenues and expenditures to the budget for the month and year to date.

Revenue

The total revenue for the Council for year to date is within budgeted figures. Revenue at the end of nine months is 74 percent of budget.

Expenditures

The total expenditures for the Council for year to date are within budgeted figures. Total expenditures at the end of nine months are 68 percent of budget.

Conclusion

In conclusion, staff is pleased with the financial condition of the Council. The adjusted general fund balance should remain at an acceptable level at the end of the fiscal year.

Overall, as is regularly reported, the financial condition of the Council is sound. Staff is not aware of anything in the current fiscal year that will change this situation.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
June 30, 2026

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking / Savings 2,243,665

Accounts Receivable 1,133,003

Other Current Assets 22,351

Total Current Assets 3,399,019

TOTAL ASSETS 3,399,019

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable 13,091

Other Current Liabilities 339,542

Total Liabilities 352,633

Equity 3,046,386

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 3,399,019

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
June 30, 2026

SUMMARY STATEMENT

	Adopted Budget FY 2025-26	June 2026	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Revenue	1,453,100	258,596	1,079,228	74%
Expenses	1,453,100	117,600	983,564	68%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
June 30, 2026

REVENUE

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2025-26	June 2026	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Program Development	51,100	1,865	43,962	86%
Regional Planning				
Regional Planning & Review	70,000	0	70,408	101%
Regional Mitigation Resiliency	70,900	10,000	41,360	58%
Public Safety & Regulatory Compliance				
Hazardous Waste Monitoring	58,900	0	0	0%
Local Emergency Planning Committee	149,000	31,650	106,430	71%
Hazards Analyses	18,800	0	13,371	
Transportation				
Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County	29,300	9,376	20,217	69%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Region	234,100	72,067	166,209	71%
Economic Development				
Economic Strategy & Technical Assistance	115,000	17,500	97,611	85%
Economic Disaster Recovery	100,000	25,000	75,000	75%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing	36,500	3,125	15,000	41%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	52,500	0	86,918	166%
Local Government Assistance				
General Technical Services	35,000	0	35,204	101%
City & County Planning Services	225,200	67,813	254,188	113%
Community Development Block Grant Administration	206,800	20,200	53,350	26%
Total Revenue	1,453,100	258,596	1,079,228	74%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
June 30, 2026

EXPENDITURES

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2025-26	June 2026	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Audit	19,000	0	0	0%
Building Occupancy & Grounds	42,000	2,448	21,549	51%
Contractual Services	103,000	2,568	50,763	49%
Dues, Publications, Subscriptions & Training	42,000	268	61,381	146%
Furniture & Equipment	25,000	0	0	0%
Insurance & Bonding	38,000	9,020	27,059	71%
Legal Services & Public Notices	15,000	488	8,538	57%
Machine Rental & Maintenance	5,000	0	3,843	77%
Meeting Expenses	25,000	2,779	12,581	50%
Office Supplies	17,000	0	15,428	91%
Personnel	972,100	86,797	684,711	70%
Postage	5,000	237	2,812	56%
Printing	5,000	0	0	0%
Reproduction	4,000	0	1,354	34%
Telephone	3,000	506	4,449	148%
Travel	30,000	2,647	23,192	77%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	52,500	9,842	65,904	126%
Contingency	50,500	0	0	0%
Total Expenses	1,453,100	117,600	983,564	68%



VII.A.

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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Jhelecia Hawkins, Chair
SUBJECT: Committee Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify the appointment of Jimmy Norris, Suwannee County Economic Development Director, as Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee; Jennifer Daniels, Columbia County Economic Development Director, as Vice-Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee; and Karen VanAernam, Dixie County Economic Development Liaison, to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

BACKGROUND:

Due to vacancies on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, appointments to this committee need to be made at this time.

I am recommending the appointment of Jimmy Norris, Suwannee County Economic Development Director, as Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee; Jennifer Daniels, Columbia County Economic Development Director, as Vice-Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee; and Karen VanAernam, Dixie County Economic Development Liaison, to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.



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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jhelecia Hawkins, Chair

SUBJECT: Florida Association of Counties
 Presidential Advocate Awards

At the Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting held in Orlando on June 25, 2026, Florida Association of Counties President Michelle Lincoln awarded Presidential Advocate Awards to the following Council members.

- Commissioner Anthony Adams, Lafayette County;
- Commissioner Mary Alford, Alachua County;
- Commissioner Thomas Demps, Taylor County;
- Commissioner Johnny Hiers, Levy County; and
- Commissioner Melissa McNeal, Union County.

In addition, the following county commissioners in the north central Florida region were also 2026 Presidential Advocate Award recipients.

- Commissioner Diane Andrews, Bradford County;
- Commissioner Ken Cornell, Alachua County;
- Commissioner Christopher Dougherty, Bradford County;
- Commissioner Mark Hatch, Dixie County;
- Commissioner Donna Jackson, Union County;
- Commissioner Travis Land, Suwannee County;
- Commissioner William Martin, Gilchrist County;
- Commissioner Richie McCoy, Hamilton County;
- Commissioner Ronnie Moore, Madison County;
- Commissioner Timothy Murphy, Columbia County;
- Commissioner Michael Newman, Taylor County;
- Commissioner Darrell Smith, Gilchrist County; and
- Commissioner Carolyn Spooner, Bradford County.

The Presidential Advocate Award recognition is given to county commissioners who have shown exceptional leadership in serving on policy committees of the Florida Association of Counties, guiding the policy development process and advocating with the Florida Association of Counties during the 2026 Legislative Session to advance the legislative agenda of counties.

Congratulations to Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Demps, Commissioner Hiers and Commissioner McNeal.

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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jhelecia Hawkins, Chair

SUBJECT: Florida Association of Counties
Board of Directors Election

At the Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting held in Orlando on June 25, 2026, Alachua County Commissioner Mary Alford was re-elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year term ending in 2028.

The Florida Association of Counties helps counties effectively serve and represent Floridians by strengthening and preserving county home rule through advocacy, education and collaboration. For more than 85 years, the Florida Association of Counties has represented the diverse interests of Florida's counties, emphasizing the importance of protecting home rule - the concept that communities and their local leaders should make the decisions that impact their community.

The Florida Association of Counties is the only association representing Florida's counties - bringing together the collective experience and knowledge of 377 county commissioners and supported by thousands of county professional staff. The Florida Association of Counties provides the cohesive platform that enables county officials and staff to speak with a unified voice on behalf of all Floridians. Through the Florida Association of Counties, counties are better able to serve not only their communities, but the entire state of Florida.

Throughout the state, Florida's counties perform vital public services such as public safety, fire and emergency medical services, jails, parks, libraries, healthcare, growth management, economic development, and roads.

Congratulations to Commissioner Alford.

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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jhelecia Hawkins, Chair

SUBJECT: Florida Small County Coalition
Board of Directors Election

At the Florida Small County Coalition Meeting held in Orlando on June 24, 2026, the Coalition elected officers and Board of Directors. Lafayette County Commissioner Anthony Adams continues to serve the remainder of a two-year ending in 2027.

The Coalition is a statewide alliance of county commissions from small and rural counties. The purpose of the Coalition is to give increased visibility and support to the issues to small counties and rural communities. The Coalition's primary mission is to help Florida's small and rural counties address legislative issues from a small county/rural perspective and work effectively with state agencies leadership.

The Coalition believes in the importance of a state rural policy that protects the character of our small and rural areas; promotes economic development; and, maintains and promotes the viability of existing small county economies such as agriculture and eco-tourism. The Coalition supports programs that improve the financial viability and fiscal capacity of Florida's local governments in small counties.

The Coalition supports programs that help provide services to Floridians who reside in small counties; Floridians who visit their communities for enjoyment; and, visitors from outside the state who travel through small counties in route to destinations in and out of Florida.

Congratulations to Commissioner Adams.

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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jhelecia Hawkins, Chair

SUBJECT: Executive Director Service on Board of Directors
National Association of Development Organizations

Our executive director, Scott Koons, served as President of the National Association of Development Organizations in 2018-19. Since, 2020, as a Past President, Mr. Koons has continued to serve on the Organization's Board of Directors.

Joe McKinney, National Association of Development Organizations Executive Director recently sent a letter via electronic communications to me recognizing Mr. Koons' service on the Board of Directors. Mr. McKinney stated *"I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your support in allowing Scott Koons to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Development Organizations. Your willingness to encourage and support this level of engagement reflects a strong commitment not only to the professional growth of your organization's leadership, but also to the broader field of regional development. Serving on the National Association of Development Organization's board is both an honor and a significant responsibility, and Scott's participation helps elevate the voice and perspective of your organization at the national level."*

The National Association of Development Organizations provides advocacy, education, research and training to a national network of 520 regional development organizations primarily serving small metropolitan and rural regions. The Association is an advocate for federal programs and policies that promote regional strategies and solutions for addressing local community and economic development needs. The National Association of Development Organizations and the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation identify and promote best practices, analyze the impact of federal policies and programs on regional development organizations and local communities, and examine the latest trends and developments in the field of regional community and economic development.

As the premier organization for the executive leaders and professional staff of the nation's regional development organizations, the National Association of Development Organizations and its members have worked together since 1967 to promote the regional cooperation of local governments and communities. In 1988, the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation was founded to serve as the research and professional development affiliate of the Association.

Congratulations to Scott.

Attachment

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On Wed, Jul 1, 2026 at 5:04 PM Joe McKinney <jmckinney@nado.org> wrote:

Honorable Jhelecia Hawkins, Mayor

Chair

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Dear Honorable,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your support in allowing Scott Koons to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO).

Your willingness to encourage and support this level of engagement reflects a strong commitment not only to the professional growth of your organization's leadership, but also to the broader field of regional development. Serving on NADO's board is both an honor and a significant responsibility, and Scott's participation helps elevate the voice and perspective of your organization at the national level.

We deeply appreciate your recognition of the value that this service brings, not only in contributing to national conversations and policy discussions, but also in strengthening the capacity, visibility, and impact of your organization locally and regionally. Your leadership in supporting this opportunity demonstrates foresight and a collaborative spirit that benefits the entire regional development organizations (RDOs) community.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your continued partnership and commitment. We look forward to the positive contributions and shared successes that will come from this important work.



Warm regards,



Joe McKinney

Executive Director

National Association of Development Organizations

122 C Street, NW, Suite 830

Washington, D.C. 20001

jmckinney@nado.org



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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jhelecia Hawkins, Chair

SUBJECT: Executive Director Employment Contract Extension

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and authorize the Chair and Secretary to execute an amendment to the employment contract with Scott R. Koons as executive director, extending the term of the employment contract for an additional four-year term, beginning October 1, 2026 and terminating on September 30, 2030, with all other terms and conditions of employment remaining in full force and effect, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

BACKGROUND:

Scott Koons, our current Executive Director, was selected by the Council as our executive director effective October 1, 2006. To formalize that decision, an employment contract was negotiated and executed with Mr. Koons, which terminated on September 30, 2010.

The existing employment contract includes a provision that the parties may mutually agree to additional four-year extensions of the contract. Such extensions would result in all other terms and conditions of the employment remaining in full force and effect. The existing contract was extended for an additional four-year term beginning on October 1, 2010 and terminating on September 30, 2014, an additional four-year term beginning on October 1, 2014 and terminating on September 30, 2018, an additional four-year term beginning on October 1, 2018 and terminating on September 30, 2022 and an additional four-year term terminating on September 30, 2026..

All of the annual evaluations of the performance of Mr. Koons conducted by the Executive Committee during his current term of employment have resulted in "above average performance" or "exceeds job requirements" level for all evaluation criteria. Based upon these performance evaluations, the Executive Committee recommends to the Council that the employment contract with Mr. Koons be amended by extending the term of the employment contract for an additional four-year term ending September 30, 2030, with all other terms and conditions of employment remaining in full force and effect (see attachment).

Attachments

AMENDMENT NO. 5
TO THE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
AND
SCOTT R. KOONS
PROVIDING FOR EMPLOYMENT
AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This amendment is entered into on this _____ day of _____ 2026.

This is an amendment to an Agreement dated August 24, 2006, amended on May 27, 2010, amended on May 22, 2014, amended May 24, 2018 and amended May 26, 2022 between the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, hereinafter referred to as NCFRPC, and Scott R. Koons, hereinafter referred to as the "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR."

WHEREAS, the NCFRPC and the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR by mutual agreement desire to exercise the provisions of Article II, Term, Paragraph 3.0 to renew the above referenced Agreement for an additional four (4) year term.

NOW, THEREFORE the following section of the above referenced Agreement is hereby amended, as follows.

3.0 This Agreement shall commence on the 1st day of October 2006 and shall terminate on the 30th day of September 2030. However, the parties hereto further agree that this Agreement may be renewed for additional four (4) year terms at its natural termination by mutual agreement of the parties, or as agreed to by the parties in a later document of equal dignity herewith, unless terminated as otherwise provided herein. The terms of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and hold over until the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's employment is terminated under the terms herein, or a new Agreement has been negotiated and entered into by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and the NCFRPC.

All terms and conditions of the above referenced Agreement shall remain in full force and effect except as expressly modified by Amendment No. 1, Amendment No. 2., Amendment No. 3, Amendment No. 4 and this Amendment No. 5.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have made and executed this Amendment No. 5 on the respective dates under each signature, the NCFRPC, through its governing body, signing by and through its Chair and Secretary, authorized to execute same by NCFRPC governing body action on the _____ day of _____ 2026.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

By: _____
JHELECIA HAWKINS Chair
Date: _____

Attest: _____
DON HALE Secretary
Date: _____

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
In our Presence as Witnesses:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(Print or Type Name of Witness)

SCOTT R. KOONS
Date: _____

(Print or Type Name of Witness)

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
AND
SCOTT R. KOONS
PROVIDING FOR EMPLOYMENT
AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THIS IS AN AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 24th day of August 2006, by and between the NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, a body corporate and politic and an agency created by an Interlocal Agreement, hereinafter referred to as "NCFRPC", and SCOTT R. KOONS, hereinafter referred to as "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR."

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, the NCFRPC was created by Amended Interlocal Agreement Creating the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (as amended May 24, 1990), hereafter referred to as Interlocal Agreement, and operates under the Interlocal Agreement and the Florida Regional Planning Council Act as set forth in Chapter 186, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Agreement provides that the NCFRPC may employ and compensate such personnel, and consultants and technical and professional assistants as it deems necessary to exercise the powers and perform the duties set forth in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement and with the Florida Regional Planning Council Act as set forth in Chapter 186, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the NCFRPC desires to employ the services of SCOTT R. KOONS as EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the NCFRPC; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the NCFRPC to secure and retain the services of SCOTT R. KOONS as the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and to provide inducement for him to remain in such employment; to make possible full work productivity by assuring the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's morale and peace of mind with respect to future security; to act as a deterrent against malfeasance or dishonesty for personal gain on the part of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; and to provide a just

means for terminating the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's services at such time as that he may not be able to fully discharge his duties or when the NCFRPC may otherwise desire to terminate his employ; and

WHEREAS, SCOTT R. KOONS desires to accept employment as EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the NCFRPC.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, the mutual covenants, conditions, provisions and undertakings herein contained, and for other good and valuable considerations, the parties do mutually covenant and agree with each other as follows:

ARTICLE I
TERMS AND CONDITIONS - THE NCFRPC

1.0 The NCFRPC agrees as follows:

1.1 To employ SCOTT R. KOONS as the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of NCFRPC for the term provided for in paragraph 3.0 hereinafter consistent with the conditions and covenants of the Interlocal Agreement, the Florida Regional Planning Council Act as set forth in Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, and other applicable, professional and ethical requirements imposed upon the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR by existing NCFRPC rules or existing agreements, including the NCFRPC's Personnel Regulations, as they may be amended from time to time. In the event of a conflict with the NCFRPC's Personnel Regulations, this Agreement will control.

1.2 To pay and to compensate the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$105,500.00) per annum unless otherwise modified in accordance with paragraph 1.8, hereinafter for the term of this Agreement, payable in accordance with the regularly scheduled method of compensation for other NCFRPC employees, in addition to such other fringe benefits, including but not limited to, health, dental medical, life and related insurance, retirement benefits and other accouterments of employment as more specifically set forth herein.

1.3 To pay and to reimburse the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$750.00) per month for travel with a destination within the geographical limits of the NCFRPC as and for the reimbursement for the reimbursable mileage and automobile expenses incurred by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR performing services in and on behalf of the NCFRPC. Additionally, the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR will be compensated for travel with a destination outside the geographical limits of the NCFRPC at the rate established by the NCFRPC's Personnel Regulations.

1.4 To provide the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR with health, medical, dental, life and related insurance which is otherwise provided to regularly employed NCFRPC employees in addition to providing errors and omissions coverage applicable to all acts or omissions of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR arising out of his employment consistent with the existing errors and omissions policy currently provided to members of the governing body of the NCFRPC.

1.5 To provide the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR with sick leave and annual leave otherwise applicable to regularly employed NCFRPC employees and based upon the NCFRPC's Personnel Regulations existing from time to time and adopted by the governing body of the NCFRPC.

1.6 To make contributions on behalf of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR to the NCFRPC Employee Pension Plan Trust otherwise provided to regularly employed NCFRPC employees.

1.7 To provide the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR with seven (7) annual leave days in addition to the annual leave provided for in paragraph 1.5 herein.

1.8 To provide increases in compensation to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR on the following basis:

1.8.1 At the option of the Executive Committee of the NCFRPC, to provide a merit increase to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR on an annual basis commencing October 1st of each year.

1.8.2 To annually adjust the existing salary based upon cost of living increases as otherwise provided to regularly employed NCFRPC employees.

1.8.3 To annually review and evaluate the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR based upon performance standards adopted from time to time by the Executive Committee of the NCFRPC. The annual review and evaluation of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR shall be performed by the Executive Committee of the NCFRPC.

1.9 Subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the NCFRPC, to pay for and on behalf of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR professional dues, fees and charges incurred by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR as a professional administrator/planner and a member of such organizations which have a specific relationship with the NCFRPC and the job duties and functions set forth herein.

1.10 To honor and to conform in all ways possible with the terms, conditions and provisions of the Interlocal Agreement, the Florida Regional Planning Council Act as set forth in Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, the NCFRPC's Organizational Policies, NCFRPC's Personnel Regulations and other applicable rules and regulations as the same may now apply or as may be applicable in the future, as amended, as well as the ethical considerations imposed upon the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

1.11 That in the event the NCFRPC chooses to remove SCOTT R. KOONS as the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, it shall follow the provisions set forth hereinafter under Article IV, "Termination."

ARTICLE II TERMS AND CONDITIONS - THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2.0 SCOTT R. KOONS agrees as follows:

2.1 To become the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the NCFRPC in accordance with the terms, conditions and provisions contained in the Interlocal Agreement, the Florida Regional Planning Council Act as set forth in Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, and other applicable, professional and ethical requirements imposed upon the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR by existing NCFRPC rules or existing agreements, including the NCFRPC's Personnel Regulations, as may be amended from

time to time. In the event of a conflict in the NCFRPC's Personnel Regulations, this Agreement will control.

2.2 To fulfill the obligations and responsibilities provided for in the Florida Regional Planning Council Act as set forth in Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, the Interlocal Agreement and the NCFRPC's Organizational Policies and to perform all functions as the Chief Administrative Official of the NCFRPC in a professional and respectable fashion and with the full decorum required and demanded of such officials, as well as those impositions and requirements, both ethical and practical, as may be applicable to professional administrators/planners in the State of Florida.

2.3 To appoint and to designate, at his sole discretion, such other qualified professional and support staff, as may be necessary and proper in connection with the discharge of his functions as the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the NCFRPC.

2.4 That the position of EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR is not and cannot be an hourly type employment. It is a "Job-Basis" form of employment. Hence, the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR shall do all things necessary and required to be available to the NCFRPC, its agents, servants and employees during the course of this Agreement consistent with good and respectable management requirements and as otherwise dictated and provided by the Interlocal Agreement, the Florida Regional Planning Council Act as set forth in Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the American Institute of Certified Planners, as well as such other applicable rules, regulations and ethical considerations.

2.5 The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR agrees to devote all of his full working time to the performance of his responsibilities and duties under this Agreement, and agrees not to engage in other paid employment without the prior consent of the NCFRPC. This provision shall not include occasional teaching, writing, or consulting on the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S time off.

2.6 To be an exempt employee at will.

ARTICLE III
TERM

3.0 This Agreement shall commence on the 1st day of October, 2006, and shall terminate on the 30th day of September, 2010. However, the parties hereto further agree that this Agreement may be renewed for additional four (4) year terms at its natural termination by mutual agreement of the parties, or as agreed to by the parties in a later document of equal dignity herewith, unless terminated as otherwise provided herein. The terms of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and hold over until the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's employment is terminated under the terms herein, or a new Agreement has been negotiated and entered into by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and the NCFRPC.

3.1 In the event the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR elects to voluntarily terminate this Agreement, he shall provide the NCFRPC with not less than sixty (60) calendar days written notice to the Chairman of the governing body of the NCFRPC indicating his intention to discontinue employment as the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, consistent with this Agreement

3.2 In the event the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR voluntarily resigns his position with the NCFRPC, he shall be compensated for all earnings and compensation to the date of voluntary termination, in addition to any and all other health, medical, dental and related insurance and sick leave and annual leave accruals otherwise provided as stated in the NCFRPC's Personnel Regulations at the execution hereof or as may, from time to time, be later amended, and this Agreement.

3.3 In the event that NCFRPC elects to terminate this Agreement prior to the expiration hereof, the NCFRPC shall comply with the terms, conditions and provisions contained herein for termination which sets forth the specific procedures and benefits payable to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

3.4 In the event that this Agreement is terminated by the NCFRPC effective upon its natural termination date, or in the event that the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR voluntarily terminates this Agreement, then the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR is entitled to no severance pay/termination pay.

3.5 Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the NCFRPC terminates the employment of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR as provided for hereinafter, the NCFRPC shall continue to pay to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR all compensation earned to the date of termination as well as any severance pay/termination pay, if any, which would otherwise be payable to him in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV TERMINATION

4.0 The parties hereto mutually covenant and agree as follows:

4.1 That the employment of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR shall be at the will of the governing body of the NCFRPC, and that no tenure or related accouterment shall be applicable to this type and kind of employment set forth in this Agreement.

4.2 By virtue of this acknowledgment, the parties have voluntarily and knowingly entered into and executed this Agreement on the basis of complying solely with the terms, conditions and provisions of this Agreement.

4.3 If it be the will and pleasure of the governing body of the NCFRPC to terminate the employment of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, the following procedure shall be followed:

4.3.1 The governing body of NCFRPC shall, by not less than a majority vote, at a regularly scheduled or special meeting in conformance with the Organizational Policies of the NCFRPC, adopt a motion or resolution terminating the services of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, for any or no reason, based upon this Agreement. Such motion or resolution shall provide the NCFRPC with the following options applicable to the termination:

4.3.1.1 The NCFRPC may choose to release the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR immediately upon the adoption of such motion or resolution; or

4.3.1.2 Such motion or resolution shall provide the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR with sixty (60) calendar days to vacate the existing position, providing full benefits otherwise accruing to him pursuant to this Agreement.

4.3.1.3 In the event that the NCFRPC chooses to terminate and release the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR prior to the expiration of the sixty (60) calendar days contemplated herein, then the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR shall be compensated for the remaining days or portion of days up to sixty (60) calendar days.

4.3.1.4 The NCFRPC shall not be required to pay the severance payments set forth above in the event this Agreement is terminated by the NCFRPC for cause, because of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's conviction of any misdemeanor or felony, or conduct unbecoming an employee of the NCFRPC, or because of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's death or voluntary resignation.

4.3.1.5 Should the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR be permanently disabled or otherwise unable to perform his duties because of sickness, accident, injury, mental incapacity or health for a period of four (4) successive weeks beyond any accrued leave, the NCFRPC shall have the right to terminate the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's employment subject to the severance provisions of this section.

4.3.2 Under any circumstances, the parties covenant and agree that the total compensation/benefits payable to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR shall be limited to such sick leave, annual leave, regular compensation, reimbursements, and such other benefits accruing pursuant to this Agreement to the date of termination or as may be otherwise provided for by the Personnel Regulations of the NCFRPC to regularly employed NCFRPC employees.

4.3.3 The NCFRPC reserves the right to authorize the payment of additional severance pay/termination pay, but is under no legal obligation to pay same in accordance with this Agreement or otherwise.

ARTICLE V
MISCELLANEOUS

5.0 It is understood and agreed that this document incorporates and includes all prior negotiations, correspondence, conversations, agreements or understandings applicable to the matters contained herein and that the parties agree that there are not commitments, agreements, or understandings concerning the subject matter of this Agreement that are not contained in this document. Accordingly, it is agreed that no deviation from the terms hereof shall be predicated upon any prior representations or agreements whether oral or written.

5.1 It is further agreed that no modification, amendment or alteration in the terms or conditions contained herein shall be effective unless contained in a written document executed with the same formality and with equal dignity herewith.

5.2 This document shall be executed in at least three (3) counterparts each of which shall be deemed to be a duplicate original.

5.3 This Agreement is executed and is to be performed in the State of Florida, and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

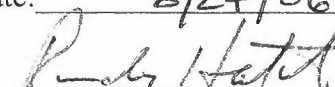
5.4 In connection with any litigation arising out of this Agreement, including any administrative, trial level, or appellate proceedings, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover all costs incurred, including a reasonable attorney's fee. Venue for such action will be either the County Court or the Circuit Court in and for Alachua County, Florida.

5.5 If any clause, section or other part or application of this Agreement shall be held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such unconstitutional or invalid part of application shall be considered as eliminated and so not affecting the validity of the remaining portions or applications remaining in full force and effect.

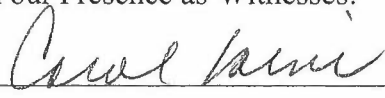
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have made and executed this Agreement on the respective dates under each signature, the NCFRPC, through its governing body, signing by and through its Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer, authorized to execute same by NCFRPC governing body action on the 24th day of August 2006.

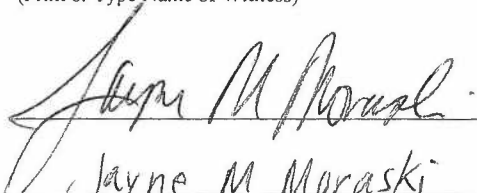
NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL

By: 
LORENE J. THOMAS Chair
Date: 8/24/06

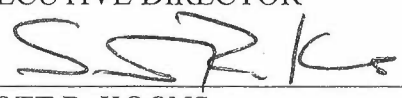
Attest: 
RANDY HATCH Secretary-Treasurer
Date: 8/24/06

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in our Presence as Witnesses:


Carol Laine
(Print or Type Name of Witness)


Jayne M Moraski
(Print or Type Name of Witness)

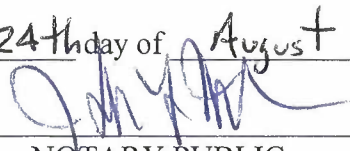
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


SCOTT R. KOONS
Date: 8/24/06

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

BEFORE ME, personally appeared, LORENE J. THOMAS, Chair of the NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, to me well known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to and before me that he executed said Agreement for the purposes therein expressed on behalf of the NCFRPC.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this 24th day of August, 2006.



NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

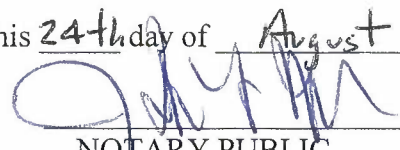


Jonathan F. Wershow
MY COMMISSION # CD272064 EXPIRES
January 17, 2008
BONDED THROUGH TROY FARM INSURANCE, INC.

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

BEFORE ME, personally appeared, SCOTT R. KOONS, to me well known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to and before me that he executed said Agreement for the purposes therein expressed.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this 24th day of August, 2006.



NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:



Jonathan F. Wershow
MY COMMISSION # CD272064 EXPIRES
January 17, 2008
BONDED THROUGH TROY FARM INSURANCE, INC.



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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: James Howell, Chair
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

I. COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:15 p.m., July 23, 2026. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting conducted both in-person and via communications media technology. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level item which requires Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

1. #47 – City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 26-5ESR)

Please be advised that the Clearinghouse Committee meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on Clearinghouse Committee Full Packet).

v:\chouse\meeting\chair reports\2026\chairreport.230726.docx



XI.A.

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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives.

The Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying-out the following objectives.

- Ensure regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the State of Florida, its local governments, and the citizens they serve;
- Ensure regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers, and serve as conveners of the region by helping to articulate those multijurisdictional issues that need resolution;
- Encourage and promote opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments;
- Monitor substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members, and promote mutually supportive policy positions among the regional planning councils;
- Represent regional planning councils in national organizations, such as the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute; and
- Foster relationships and partnerships and coordinate with state, regional, and national associations and organizations; non-profit entities; public-private partnerships; the Governor's Office; state agencies; and others, on issues of mutual interest and concern, and with whom the Association shares mutual goals and programs.

Please find attached the June 2026 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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June 2026 Activity Report

Kristin Dozier, Executive Director

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared Agenda and hosted June Executive Committee meeting
- Monthly meeting with FRCA's Bookkeeper and EDAC Treasurer to review April Financial Report
- Created new materials for FRCA's conference exhibit booth, presentations, reports, and website.
- Prepared Agenda and hosted FRCA Policy Board 2026 Nominating Committee Meeting
- Attended FRCA Communications Workgroup meeting
- Continued coordination and planning for FRCAs Summer-Annual Policy Board meeting, including presentations and speakers, annual budget, resolutions and other materials.
- Created new presentations, letterhead, and other materials using FRCA's new logo and brand colors. Ongoing updates to the FRCA Website.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH

- Attended Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference in Orlando and staffed FRCA's Exhibit Booth. Also Attended information session for Exhibitors hosted by FAC staff prior to Annual Conference.
- Coordinated and hosted meeting with Government AI company for interested RPC Directors and staff to learn more about available resources.
- Received updates from FRCAs Legislative Consultants after Legislative Special Session, provided updates on all legislative bills signed/vetoed by Governor DeSantis and the State Budget
- Conducted research into current topics impacting Florida including proposed data centers and local government response to proposed projects.

SPECIAL UPDATES



FRCA attended the Florida Association of Counties 2026 Annual Conference on June 24th, 2026

FRCA was proud to participate in FAC's annual charity event. This year, incoming FAC President Commissioner Rene Flowers, Pinellas County, selected *The Art of Giving* as the theme. Participating exhibitors donated art supplies that will benefit students in Pinellas County Schools.

Commissioner Flowers also serves as Chair of the Tampa Bay RPC. FRCA appreciates her leadership at both the regional and statewide levels and her continued support of Florida's Regional Planning Councils.



XI.B.

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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

The Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective of developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan.

The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars.

- Talent and Supply Education;
- Innovation and Economic Development;
- Infrastructure and Growth Leadership;
- Business Climate and Competitiveness;
- Civic and Governance Systems; and
- Quality of Life and Quality Places.

Please find attached the July 2026 Scorecard.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.



State of Florida Metrics

Click any metric to get more information! (What is this?)

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 07/13/2026

23,683,875



JOB CHANGE

Jobs Year Over Year Change

11,000
(Gain)

Growth Rate

-0.7%
(Negative)

view Statewide Heat Map

Net New Jobs Needed by
2030

786,264



CHILDREN IN POVERTY

16.5%
(Decreasing)

<10%
2030 Goal

711,576
(Decreasing)



3RD GRADE READING SCORES

60%
(Improving)

83,367
Not Reading at Grade Level
(Decreasing)

view Statewide Heat Map

100%
2030 Goal

Florida Gap Map



OPEN JOBS

483,309
(Increasing)

531,000
Unemployed Persons
(Declining)

110

Unemployed People per 100
Jobs



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

4.8%
(Unchanged)

view Statewide Heat Map

Jobs Year Over Year Change

11,000

view Statewide Heat Map



STATE OF FLORIDA VISITORS

\$134.9
Billion Visitor Spending

143.3
Million Visitors



SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING STARTS & SALES

9,228
Starts (Declining)

24,915
Sales (Improving)

\$425,000
Median Sale Price (Increasing)



POVERTY RATE

12.6%
(Unchanged)

view Statewide Heat Map



CONSUMER SENTIMENT

71.1
(Declining)



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

92.2%
(Improving)

view Statewide Heat Map



VOTER PARTICIPATION

79%
(Improving)



RIGHT / WRONG DIRECTION

53%/39%



LAND IN CONSERVATION

33.2%



STATE HOUSING STARTS & SALES

\$425,000
Median Price (Increasing)





TALENT SUPPLY
& EDUCATION



INNOVATION &
ECON. DEVELOP.



INFRASTRUCTURE &
GROWTH LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS CLIMATE &
COMPETITIVENESS



CIVICS &
GOVERNANCE



QUALITY
OF LIFE

State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Talent Supply & Education

Click any metric to get more information!



State of Florida Metrics

Innovation & Economic Development

State of Florida FutureCast

Click any metric to get more information!



THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data...



TALENT SUPPLY
& EDUCATION



INNOVATION &
ECON. DEVELOP.



INFRASTRUCTURE &
GROWTH LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS CLIMATE &
COMPETITIVENESS



CIVICS &
GOVERNANCE



QUALITY
OF LIFE

State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

Click any metric to get more information!

State of Florida FutureCast



LAND IN
CONSERVATION

33.2%



SINGLE FAMILY
HOUSING STARTS
& SALES

9,228

Starts (Declining)

24,915

Sales (Improving)

\$425,000

Median Sale Price (Increasing)



ENERGY STATE
RANKING

#50

Expenditures (Unchanged)

#46

Consumption Per Capita
(Increasing)



POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2030

24.90M

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)



SEAPORTS CARGO

\$72.6

Billion (Declining)



CONTAINERS
(TEUS)

4.27

Million (Declining)



HIGH SPEED
COMMUNICATIONS

97.8%

(Increasing)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)

100%

2030 Goal



MEDIAN RENT
(APARTMENTS)

\$1,502

(Decreasing)

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Community Development
Partnership Council

THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data...



TALENT SUPPLY
& EDUCATION



INNOVATION &
ECON. DEVELOP.



INFRASTRUCTURE &
GROWTH LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS CLIMATE &
COMPETITIVENESS



CIVICS &
GOVERNANCE



QUALITY
OF LIFE

State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Business Climate & Competitiveness

Click any metric to get more information!



INFLATION RATE

4.2%

National (Increasing)

3.9%

Southern Region (Increasing)



CONSUMER SENTIMENT

71.1

(Declining)



CEO RANK

2nd

(Unchanged)



STATE LEGAL CLIMATE RANKING

46th

(Unchanged)

Top 12

2030 Goal



BUSINESS TAX CLIMATE

5th

#1

2030 Goal



OPEN JOBS

483,309

(Increasing)

531,000

Unemployed Persons
(Declining)

110

Unemployed People per 100
Jobs



STATE RANKING FOR AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY

#50



HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY

Homeowners' Insurance
Affordability data is available
at the county level.

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)

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**Community Development
Partnership Council**



TALENT SUPPLY
& EDUCATION



INNOVATION &
ECON. DEVELOP.



INFRASTRUCTURE &
GROWTH LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS CLIMATE &
COMPETITIVENESS



CIVICS &
GOVERNANCE



QUALITY
OF LIFE

State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Civic & Governance Systems

Click any metric to get more information!



VOTER
REGISTRATION

41.0%

(Republican)

30.5%

(Democrat)

28.5%

(NPA/Other)



VOTER
PARTICIPATION

79%

(Improving)



RIGHT / WRONG
DIRECTION

53%/39%



INMATE
POPULATION

104,129



DEPENDENCY
RATIO

2015

56.5%

2030 Estimate

70%



GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYMENT

256.6

Thousand (State)

732.7

Thousand (Local)



VOLUNTEERISM

20.4%

of Floridians Volunteer

47th

Florida's Rank

Top 12

2030 Goal



STATE DEBT
OUTSTANDING

\$14.6

Billion



CITIZENS
INSURANCE
EXPOSURE POLICIES

\$85.9

Billion Exposure

293,772

Policies





State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

Quality of Life and Quality Places

Click any metric to get more information!

State of Florida FutureCast





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Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton
Lafayette • Levy • Madison
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Office Building and Warehouse Roof Replacement

On August 4, 1999, the Council purchased a 7,560 square foot office building and 1,989 square foot warehouse on a 4.4-acre site located at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida, for \$490,000. The office building and warehouse of pre-engineered steel construction were constructed in 1980. The Council had been renting the office building and warehouse for the previous seven years beginning on November 1, 1992.

On April 11, 2025, a severe hail storm occurred in northwest Gainesville dropping up to two inch (golf ball size) hail resulting in damage to the office building metal roof and warehouse metal roof. The office building metal roof had previously been treated with a polyurethane sealant in 2007. Following the hail storm, the Council's property and casualty insurance carrier inspector, Florida Municipal Insurance Trust, inspected both roofs and verified damage necessitating the replacement of the office building metal roof and replacement of approximately 25 percent of the warehouse metal roof.

The Trust's TurnKey Recovery Program was used for the roof replacement project. The Program eliminates upfront out-of-pocket expense associated with an insured property loss and is an extension of the insurance coverages offered under the property and casualty insurance policy. The Program is managed by SynergyNDS, the Trust's recovery program manager, coordinates the overall claim and recovery process. The insurance premium pays for the Program and there are no additional direct claim costs that are passed on to the policyholder.

The Program provides real-time reporting and experienced project management at no additional cost. Additionally, all approved claim related recovery costs, upfront material deposits and contractor progress payments are paid direct by SynergyNDS to contractors and vendors.

Synergy/NDS prepared technical specifications and used the Program's Qualified Managed Vendor Program contractor list to solicit bids. The project also included new high intensity light emitting diode parking lot lights mounted on the roof facade. Construction repair work was completed on April 14, 2026. The new acrylic-coated galvalume metal roof has a 25-year material warranty and the construction repair work has a 12-month workmanship warranty. The total cost of the project was \$333,837 with the Council's share being limited to the property and casualty insurance policy deductible of \$500.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2025-26 James H. Montgomery Certificates of Outstanding Attendance

An essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings. A Council Member Attendance Recognition Program was established by the Council at the May 22, 2008 Council meeting to recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization by regularly attending Council meetings.

The Council named the Member Attendance Recognition Program the James H. Montgomery Certificate of Outstanding Attendance in honor of Mr. Montgomery at the February 26, 2020 Council meeting. James H. Montgomery served on the Council from 1976 to 2004 as a member representing the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida. From 2010 to 2019, he served on the Council as a gubernatorial appointee. He provided 38 years of distinguished leadership and service to the Council.

James H. Montgomery served three times as Chair of the Council from 1983-84, 1994-95 and 2001-03. He also held other leadership roles during his service on the Council, including Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, Chair of the Finance Committee, Chair of the Program Committee and Chair of the Nominating Committee.

A James H. Montgomery Certificate of Outstanding Attendance will be awarded to the following members at the July 23, 2026 Council meeting in recognition of their attendance at every scheduled Council meeting during Program Year 2025-26.

County

Commissioner Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Commissioner James Howell, Hamilton County

City

Vice-Mayor Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
Mayor Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Mayor Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper
Vice-Mayor Janice Mortimer, City of Starke

Please join me in recognizing the service and commitment of these Council members as exhibited by their perfect attendance record.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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July 16, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Directors Cup

In furtherance of the Council Member Attendance Recognition Program and to encourage attendance at Council meetings, the Executive Directors Cup is awarded each year to recognize the perfect attendance by either county, city or gubernatorial members during a program year.

For Program Year 2025-26, the Executive Directors Cup will be awarded at the July 23, 2026 Council meeting to city members Vice-Mayor Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, Mayor Frank Davis, Mayor Jhelecia Hawkins and Vice-Mayor Janice Mortimer. The Executive Directors Cup is prominently displayed at the Council office.

Congratulations to Vice-Mayor Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, Mayor Frank Davis, Mayor Jhelecia Hawkins and Vice-Mayor Janice Mortimer for winning the Program Year 2025-26 Executive Directors Cup for the city members.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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