

# MEMORANDUM



To: Manatee County Housing Finance Authority  
From: Geri Lopez, Director, Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity Department  
Date: **December 4, 2017**  
Subject: Summary of REO Department Activities in FY 16-17

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The Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity (REO) Department was created in October 2016 to focus county efforts on the redevelopment and revitalization of older areas of the county and to create greater linkages and economic opportunities between housing, community and economic development projects and programs. This includes a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for new rental and homeownership projects and increasing the county's affordable housing stock.

In our first year, we focused on establishing key goals and objectives in our various Plans and creating a work program with clear action items that achieved the following:

- Facilitated a "Reset of All Things Housing" worksession with the Board of County Commissioners on April 18 to introduce a new focused affordable housing work program
- Completed the Assessment of Fair Housing Plan, submitted to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and were first in the state to be approved
- Completed a new 5-Year Consolidated Plan setting goals and objectives for federal CDBG, HOME and ESG funding, the FY17-18 Action Plan and submitted to HUD
- Created the Livable Manatee Incentive Program that encourages the development of affordable homeownership and rental housing units within mixed-income communities. Manatee County will pay 100% of county and school impact fees and facility investment fees for multi-family rental and homeownership projects up to \$500,000 per project. Resolution R-17-069 was approved on August 22.
- Requested and was approved for funding to match Low Income Housing Tax Credit applications for FY17-18
- Collaborated with the Building and Development Services Department for approval of Urban Corridors and changes needed to the Land Development Code (LDC) and Comprehensive Plan to add regulatory incentives for affordable housing
- Facilitated meetings with the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) to make recommendations on regulatory and financial incentives to encourage affordable housing.

One of our main goals in FY 17-18 is to work collaboratively with the Housing Finance Authority, non-profits and developers to identify opportunities for joint projects, leveraging resources, and other connections we can make to increase affordable housing in Manatee County. Denise Thomas, Housing and Community Development Manager, and I look forward to working with you on greater communication and potential partnerships.

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