



September 21, 2011

# CITY OF COCOA BEACH "NEWS & VIEWS"

~ A publication for Cocoa Beach Citizens produced by the Cocoa Beach Public Information Office and inserted in *The Press-Tribune* as a public service ~



## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER by SKIP WILLIAMS

Mixed Use in Downtown Cocoa Beach? I have received both criticism and approval for allowing the opportunity for you to vote for or against a ballot referendum on this issue on November 8th.

Did you know we have already spent over \$300,000 from our City reserves on the CRA that passed in 2008, borrowed against the anticipated future Tax Increment Financing for our CRA from Brevard County? The ballot language in 2008 said "Bike paths, sidewalks and landscaping". Sounds pretty simple huh? A Vision Plan was developed that has a lot of great attributes for the downtown. I'm all for improving our Cocoa Beach Downtown and its economy. But, consultant suggestions like changing the current one-way traffic pattern to two-way A1A North and South Bound along with retail sales on the sands of the beach have already been removed by your City Commission.

The Vision Plan still includes Mixed Use as part of the plan, kind of a "No-Brainer" as it is part of the nationwide prescription for all CRAs. Well, now it is your turn to decide if we in Cocoa Beach want to conform to the "cookie cutter" nationwide plan.

I lived in Miami in the late 50's and early 60's, when we could still get down Miracle Mile to the beach in 15 minutes. Not now! The tallest building

was 5 stories then, now there are 70 story buildings. Residents don't matter there anymore!

City Development officials have projected that with passage of this ballot referendum and the rezoning and comprehensive plan change that up to 290 more dwelling units could be built in the downtown in the future, at the current city wide occupancy level of 1.88 persons per unit, that's 545 more folks living downtown. Even if they only had one car per unit, that's 290 parking places needed. That would fill up all of the current pay parking lots in the downtown. Build a parking garage? That's next and I think we taxpayers will get to help pay for it.

It is Your Choice on November 8<sup>th</sup>. As your Commissioner, I will fully support your decision on Mixed Use in the downtown CRA. Creating the right balance is the key to a sustainable, vibrant future for the downtown area. Is Mixed Use for the better or the worse? You Decide! The County Supervisor of Elections predicts only 20% of you will vote on this important issue for the future of Cocoa Beach. I hope you'll come out and exceed her expectations!

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns you have whether it's related to the downtown or not. My home phone number is 783-1850 and my E-mail address is

[swilliams@cityofcocoa-beach.com](mailto:swilliams@cityofcocoa-beach.com)

Thank You and it is my honor to serve you.

~~~~ Commissioner Skip Williams

## NOVEMBER ELECTION ON "MIXED USE"

Below is the official ballot language that Cocoa Beach voters will voting on during the November 8, 2011 special election:

~~~~~  
Shall the City of Cocoa Beach adopt mixed use for downtown/Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)?

The downtown/CRA vision plan developed over the last three years includes mixed use as a method to revive our local economic conditions and improve the downtown environment. Do you approve of allowing an additional mix of retail and residential uses downtown as long as it does not exceed the city-wide density caps as set in the City Charter?

- [ ] Yes, to approve
- [ ] No, to reject



## SEPTEMBER 2011

LEON "SKIP" BEELER—MAYOR  
KEN GRIFFIN— VICE MAYOR  
SKIP WILLIAMS—COMMISSIONER  
KEVIN PRUETT—COMMISSIONER  
DAVE NETTERSTROM—COMMISSIONER  
CHUCK BILLIAS—CITY MANAGER

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## STORM POINTERS ~ HELP US TO HELP YOU ~

We all hope to avoid having to endure a hurricane, but if we must, we can accelerate the recovery period by working together. City employees will be ready to go to work after a hurricane as soon as it is safe to do so. Always check the City's website at [www.cityofcocoa-beach.com](http://www.cityofcocoa-beach.com) for updates and guidance. There are things that property owners can do that will help bring a quick return to normalcy.

 ~ CUT OUT THESE "STORM POINTERS" AND TAPE THEM ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR DOOR ~ 

### BEFORE THE STORM:

- Stock up on water, canned goods, batteries, medicine and gasoline.
- Remove and/or secure any loose materials, lawn furniture, etc.
- Remove parked vehicles from the streets and roadways.
- Check storm drains in your neighborhood and remove any obstructions.
- Take barrier island evacuation notices seriously!
- Purchase sand bags, if needed. Sand bags are available for purchase at Ace Hardware in Cocoa Beach.

### AFTER THE STORM:

- Be alert for downed electrical lines!
- Check on your neighbors.
- Limit phone usage for emergency purposes only.
- City staff will coordinate power outages with FPL—rest assured that FPL will be working to restore local power as quickly as possible.

### REPAIR WORK:

**DO NOT** allow contractors to make repairs without a City permit. **PERMIT FEES WILL BE WAIVED.** Permits serve to verify a contractor's license and insurance coverage. A City inspector will then ensure all repair work is done properly.

### DEBRIS CLEAN-UP:

This is important—the easily reached debris piles will be picked up first. Debris will be picked up by "bucket" trucks.

- **SEPARATE YARD WASTE** (limbs, etc.) FROM OTHER TYPES OF DEBRIS!
- IF YOU HAVE DEBRIS THAT IS NOT YARD WASTE (construction materials, damaged furniture or personal property), **MAKE SEPARATE PILES.**
- Place debris piles at or near curbs but away from trees, overhead lines or other overhead structures. Locate debris piles in open areas away from mailboxes, hydrants, utility poles, etc.