

NEWS RELEASE

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City Announces Community Services Division Reorganization

The City of Fort Pierce completed its evaluation of the delivery of programs in the Community Services Division. "Our focus over the past two weeks has been to evaluate the administration of various program dollars and develop a delivery system to insure that the City's Federal entitlement funding reaches those community residents most in need," states City Manager David Recor.

Effective March 1, 2010, management and oversight responsibility of various program funding sources, previously administered by the Community Services Division, will be reassigned to the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency. The City Manager has tasked Matthew G. Margotta, Director of Community Development and FPRA Director, Jon Ward, with coordinating this transition.

Recor states, "I have total and complete confidence in Mr. Ward's leadership and ability to effectively administer both existing and future program dollars." Funding allocated to existing programs and activities will be maintained through the end of the current fiscal year. Further discussion regarding reprioritizing the allocation of entitlement dollars to infrastructure projects will be postponed until the City begins budget discussions for fiscal year 2011.

Recor adds, "As the FPRA transitions from a period of aggressive capital construction and land acquisition to more of a maintenance mode, the reorganization results in the unprecedented occasion whereby the FPRA will administer funding from a source other than Tax Increment Financing dollars or bonded capital construction funding." Ward will not receive a salary increase for administering this new source of funding and Margotta will resume his responsibilities as the City's Director of Planning.

The reorganization also affects other areas of responsibility within the City's organizational structure. Direction and oversight of the City's Grant Administration responsibilities will also be reassigned to the FPRA and a Fiscal Officer will be established to internally monitor and evaluate the financial affairs of the various functions assigned to the Agency. The reorganization results in the elimination of three (3) previously funded positions, the Assistant Director, Community Services position and two (2) Rehabilitation Specialist positions whose responsibilities will be outsourced to the City's Building Department.

Future staffing needs of the Agency will be evaluated as this new administration and organizational structure evolves.

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