

**PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**PRELIMINARY FOR
PAC REVIEW ONLY**

AGENDA ITEM: IV C.

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2009

SUBJECT:

Survey of Cities Re: Council Assistance

RECOMMENDATION:

Council Receive and Authorize Distribution

I. BACKGROUND

Each year, as it updates its annual and five-year work programs, the Council considers how best to fulfill its role and mission. To facilitate this process, the Council has occasionally surveyed its member local governments to learn how it can improve and refine the services it offers.

In the current economic downturn, with the public sector facing budget cutbacks at all levels, it is more important than ever for the Council to determine how it can most efficiently and effectively provide planning assistance to local governments. It would be appropriate, therefore, to administer an updated survey this year, with a particular focus on local assistance services.

Attached is a proposed cover letter (Attachment 1) and survey form (Attachment 2). If the Council authorizes, the survey will be distributed to elected officials and staff in all 25 local governments in Pinellas County. The information from the survey results will then be used to determine which communities are in need of assistance, of what type, and whether there are patterns of needed assistance that could be met in a coordinated, as opposed to individual, fashion.

PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL ACTION:

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AUTHORITY ACTION:

March 4, 2009

The Honorable Murial Whitman, Mayor
6000-54th Avenue North
Kenneth City, FL 33709-3699

Dear Mayor Whitman:

One of the principal roles or functions of the PPC, as identified in our mission statement, is to provide technical assistance to local governments. This assistance is typically offered by interlocal agreement, on a contract basis that covers the Council's direct costs. In an effort to improve our service to member local governments, we would like to hear from elected officials and staff regarding any assistance that you might need, or that would be useful to you if done on a countywide basis, within the next one to two years.

The attached survey is a tool that will be used to assist us in determining how we can best help your local government. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and send it back to the PPC, using the provided self-addressed stamped envelope, or by faxing the form to 727-464-8212.

Two copies of the survey form are included with the letter. One copy is for you to complete, either individually or with the input of your elected body; and the other is for an appropriate staff member of your jurisdiction. While we would appreciate receiving a response from both the elected representative(s) and staff, if distribution to staff is not applicable or workable, please return just the elected representative's response.

We would appreciate receiving your response by April 17, 2009. Thank you for your input.

Sincerely,

Mayor Beverley Billiris
Chairman, Pinellas Planning Council

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**Pinellas Planning Council (PPC)
Local Government Assistance Survey**

Q1. Following is a list of example local assistance services that the PPC has offered in the past. Please check any that your local government might be interested in obtaining, pursuant to the interlocal agreement process, within the next one to two years:

Special Projects

- Creation of neighborhood, corridor, special area, or other redevelopment plans
- Annexation feasibility studies
- Parking studies
- Floodplain management plans (used in conjunction with federal Community Rating System)
- Grant applications
- Other: _____

Comprehensive Plan/Land Development Regulation (LDR) Updates

- To meet state growth management laws (e.g., annual capital improvements program update)
- To maintain consistency with the Countywide Plan Rules
- To maintain consistency between LDRs and comprehensive plans
- To incorporate special area plans or other local plans
- To better facilitate redevelopment
- Other: _____

Development Review

- Rezoning applications
- Variance applications
- Special exception/conditional use permit reviews
- Site plan reviews
- Other: _____

Technical Services

- Map creation (e.g., future land use, zoning, floodplain)
- Land use data and analysis (e.g., existing and future land use acreages)
- Opinion surveys
- Consultant selection and contract coordination
- Other: _____

Studies of Regulatory Issues

- Significant changes to state growth management laws
- Adult uses
- Religious institutions
- Wireless facilities
- Other: _____

Q2. Following is a list of example countywide studies or efforts that the PPC could potentially initiate. Please check any that your local government would find beneficial:

- Evaluation of land use changes needed to support planned countywide and regional transit systems
- Identification of locations that would most benefit from the use of planned redevelopment categories and/or special area plans
- Model ordinances to help local governments create special area plans, implement hotel density options, and take advantage of other flexible redevelopment strategies
- Model comprehensive plan amendments to help local governments meet new state requirements for energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gasses
- Other: _____

Q3. Are there any other types of assistance that the PPC could provide for your community?

Q4. Are there new/different intergovernmental roles or functions that the PPC could perform that would be helpful to your community?

Q5. Please identify any other issues, suggestions, or comments that you would like the PPC to consider:

Q6. Your local government _____

Signature of person(s) completing survey (optional) _____
