

**PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

AGENDA ITEM: VI A.

MEETING DATE: March 21, 2007

SUBJECT:
Other Council Business - Chairman/Member Items

RECOMMENDATION:
Council Identify and Discuss as Determined Appropriate

BACKGROUND:

1. Council consider attached letter in support of Tarpon Springs' Application for Designation as a Waterfronts Florida Community

PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL ACTION:

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AUTHORITY ACTION:

600 Cleveland Street, Suite 850 • Clearwater, Florida 33755-4160
Telephone 727.464.8250 • Fax 727.464.8212 • www.pinellasplanningcouncil.org

Mayor Jerry Beverland, *Chairman*
Councilmember Sandra L. Bradbury, *Vice Chairman*
Mayor Bob Hackworth, *Secretary*
Mayor Beverley Billiris, *Treasurer*
Councilmember John Doran
Councilmember David W. "Bill" Foster
Mayor Pat Gerard
Mayor Dick Holmes
Vice Mayor Jerry Knight
School Board Member Linda S. Lerner
Mayor Mary M. Maloof
Commissioner John Morroni
Mayor Andy Steingold

David P. Healey, AICP
Executive Director

March 21, 2007

Ms. Jennifer Carver, AICP
Florida Department of Community Affairs
Division of Community Planning
Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd. Room 365C
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Dear Ms. Carver:

On behalf of the Pinellas Planning Council and its 25 member local governments, I am writing in support of the City of Tarpon Springs' application for designation as a Waterfronts Florida Community under the State's Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program.

Revitalizing and preserving the unique waterfront and the businesses that operate there is extremely important to our entire county. The shrimp and fishing industries that are finding it difficult to continue operating play an important role in our economy, generating valuable income from the products that they harvest from the Gulf of Mexico. For a number of reasons, including the pressure to redevelop their waterfront location into residential and other non-water dependent uses, they are struggling to remain viable and would benefit from efforts to improve the waterfront in Tarpon Springs.

In addition, Tarpon Springs has become internationally recognized for the historic and cultural significance of its working waterfront. In fact, the Greek sponge fishing industry in Tarpon Springs dates back to the late 1800s when Greek immigrants arrived and settled in the area. The sponging industry continues to be a traditional way of life that is both a tourist attraction and a viable industry that needs to be preserved.

Ms. Jennifer Carver
Florida Department of Community Affairs
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To address some of the issues affecting these industries, local government officials from Tarpon Springs have brought together a team of business and property owners, legislators, and various technical/professional staff from around the county, including staff from the Pinellas Planning Council, to develop solutions to the problems that have been identified. Support through the "Working Waterfronts" program will assist in their efforts to save this important industry for the county.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Sandra Bradbury, Chairman
Pinellas Planning Council

cc: Honorable Beverley Billiris, Mayor of Tarpon Springs

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2007-10

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE
SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE WATERFRONTS
FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE CITY OF TARPON
SPRINGS, FLORIDA, TO BE DESIGNATED AS A
WATERFRONTS FLORIDA COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, the City of Tarpon Springs desires to submit an application to the Waterfronts Florida Partnership to request that the City of Tarpon Springs, Florida be designated as a "Waterfronts Florida" Community; and,

WHEREAS, some portions of the working waterfront area fall within unincorporated Pinellas County and the City of Tarpon Springs requests the support and cooperation of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in this effort and seeks to continue to include County staff as a part of the Commercial Working Waterfronts Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Tarpon Springs understands the critical importance of its historic working waterfront to the economic well-being of the community and the quality of life of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Tarpon Springs has a longstanding commitment to its working waterfront; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Tarpon Springs desires to further express this commitment by seeking designation of the area as a "Working Waterfronts Community" in order to assist in addressing economic, access, cultural and disaster mitigation issues that face the working waterfront.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, that:**

SECTION 1. The City of Tarpon Springs hereby authorizes and supports the filing of an application for the City of Tarpon Springs' designation as a "Waterfronts Florida" Community.

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and / or the City Manager of the City of Tarpon Springs are hereby authorized to execute all documents required in connection with the filing of an application to be submitted on or before March 21, 2007.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 6th day of March, 2007.

Beverly Billiris
BEVERLEY BILLIRIS, MAYOR

David O. Archie
DAVID O. ARCHIE, VICE-MAYOR

Peter S. Dalacos
PETER S. DALACOS, COMMISSIONER

Robin Saenger
ROBIN SAENGER, COMMISSIONER

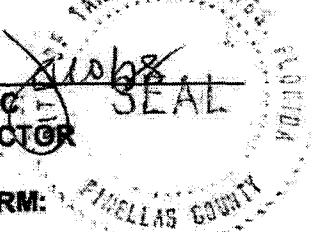
Chris Alahouzos
CHRIS ALAHOUZOS, COMMISSIONER

MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER DALACOS
SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER SAENGER

VOTE ON MOTION

COMMISSIONER ALAHOUZOS Yes
COMMISSIONER SAENGER Yes
COMMISSIONER DALACOS Yes
VICE-MAYOR ARCHIE Yes
MAYOR BILLIRIS Yes

ATTEST:

Irene S. Jacobs
IRENE S. JACOBS, CMG
CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR
APPROVED AS TO FORM: 

John G. Hubbard
JOHN G. HUBBARD
CITY ATTORNEY