

TO: Mayor and City Commission

FROM:

BY:

DATE:

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Smart Growth Principles

Tonight we are requesting the City Commission's consideration of adopting the attached Resolution supporting Smart Growth Principles and a motion authorizing the submission of a request for technical assistance to the Smart Growth Partnership Organization.

Background:

The Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act was passed in 2010 requiring State agencies to consider smart growth criteria when evaluating public infrastructure projects. Smart growth practices promote economic growth and reinvestment in developed and developing areas, while preserving open space and protecting natural resources. Development decisions affect many of the things that touch people's everyday lives - their homes, their health, the schools their children attend, the taxes they pay, their daily commute, the natural environment around them, economic growth in their community, and opportunities to achieve their dreams and goals. What, where, and how communities build will affect our residents' lives for generations to come

Smart growth values long-range, regional considerations of sustainability over a short-term focus. Its goals are to achieve a unique sense of community and place; expand the range of transportation through a mix of transit, walking and bicycle-friendly land use, employment, and housing choices; equitably distribute the costs and benefits of development; preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources; and promote public health. As _____ undertakes redevelopment, we encourage the City to adopt these principles and utilize them during the review of development applications. Administration requests Commission's consideration of the attached Resolution that endorses the City's support of Smart Growth Principles.

The City was awarded technical assistance from the Smart Growth Partnership organization to: educate staff and the community regarding smart growth policies, audit the city's existing policies and the Smart Growth Partnership will provide policies for the City to consider adding, amending to meet Smart Growth Principles.

Recommendation:

At this time, Administration recommends that the City Commission adopt the attached Resolution and authorize the City Manager, or her designee, and City Clerk to forward the Resolution to the Smart Growth Partnership Organization.

The above language is meant to help support the adoption of the resolution. Fill in the "city" name. Also, if the city has accomplished any smart growth initiatives, it would be helpful to add this to your memorandum. The background information, first paragraph comes from the EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities, smart growth background. Additional, facts, and information can be located http://www.epa.gov/dced/about_sg.htm and www.smartgrowthamerica.org, www.smartgrowthpartnership.org. Smart Growth Partnership, also developed a "what is smart growth" FQ sheet that can also be provided

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF _____, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING COMMITMENT WHICH FOSTERS A UNIQUE IDENTIFY FOR _____ AND INCPORATES THE PRINCIPLES OF SMART GROWTH AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE SMART GROWTH PARTNERSHIP’S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STRIVES TO IMPLEMENT SMART GROWTH STRATEGIES THAT ENHANCE AND STRENGTH, AND SUPPORT THE LONG TERM HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, the City _____ wishes to create a fiscally healthy and sustainable community through the evaluation and implementation of Smart Growth principles; and

WHEREAS, the term “smart growth” roots in planning and transportation that concentrates growth to avoid urban sprawl and advocates compact, transit-oriented, walkable, bicycle-friendly land use, including neighborhood schools, mixed-use development with a range of housing choices appropriate for the context of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City _____ has already shown commitment to these principles by applying for and receiving Smart Growth Partnership’s technical assistance grant to evaluate and educate the City on Smart Growth techniques that strive to strengthen and improve the health of its citizenry and community;

WHEREAS, the City of _____ wishes to continue the momentum created from the technical assistance’s suggested next steps for the City to incorporate smart growth principles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF XX, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The foregoing recitals contained in the preamble to this Resolution are incorporated by reference herein.

Section 2: The City Commission will strive to continue the effort to adopt, enforce, and educate property owners about land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space and create compact, walk able urban communities while promoting transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, opportunities for car pooling and public transit.

Section 3: The Commission members, in their roles as local government leaders, consider the relationship between decisions made today and their long-term impacts, and recognize that our success as community leaders is dependent on an open decision-making process that takes into account the long-term economic, environmental, health and social well-being of our communities well into the next century.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City _____, Florida, this _____ day of _____.