



Mayors' Council of Pinellas County

2022-2023 Executive Committee

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September 12, 2022

The Honorable Charlie Justice
Chairman, Tourist Development Council
Chairman, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Commissioner Justice:

I am writing to you in response to your request for two or more nominees to serve as a representative for the Mayors Council of Pinellas county (MCPC) on the Pinellas County Tourist Development Council (TDC).

The Mayor's Council would like to submit two names to serve on the TDC. Mayor Julie Ward-Bujalski with the City of Dunedin is the current representative and is eligible for reappointment. We submit her name as a candidate as well as Mayor Costa Vatikiotis with the City of Tarpon Springs.

I understand that the Board of County Commissioners will vote for one of these nominees to serve as a representative for the Mayors Council of Pinellas County at an upcoming meeting.

Thank you for your request and should you have any questions concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Woody Brown".

Woody Brown
President, Mayors' Council of Pinellas County
Mayor, City of Largo



OFFICE OF
MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

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September 12, 2022

Pinellas County Chairman Justice and Commissioners,

My nomination to the Tourist Development Council (TDC) will be coming to you shortly through the Mayor's Council. As such, I would like to share just a few of the new initiatives that we have underway in Tarpon Springs that will contribute to the TDC mission.

1. **Tarpon Springs Strategic Plan** - We are just now completing a two-year effort that began on my initiative as a new Commissioner in Tarpon Springs. The plan will be adopted at the City Commission meeting of September 13th. It is the first plan for Tarpon Springs in 25 years and will be memorialized in the City Charter by voter referendum in the 2023 municipal election. The USF Institute of Government and the St. Petersburg Collaborative Lab facilitated the city-wide plan.
2. **Comprehensive Plan Update with a New Economic Development Element** - We are in the process of adding an Economic Development Element to the City's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. The City is nearing build-out and we are transitioning from a "needs-based" approach for economic development (typical population/business growth model) to a "placed-based" approach where the emphasis is on creating "places" for visitors with the goal of a "15-minute" community (i.e., being able to walk to your destination within 15 minutes). We plan to grow our economy by attracting visitors instead of increasing the town's population.
3. **Adding Two New Character Districts to the Existing Historic District** - As you know, Tarpon Springs is the oldest City in Pinellas County. A traditional historic district was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) approximately 25 years ago. Approximately, five years ago a new Tarpon Springs Greektown Cultural District was added to the NRHP. It qualified as having state-level importance. It includes the Sponge Docks area. Also, we recently initiated an effort to create a local "Union Academy Neighborhood" Cultural District. This effort meshes with a new Community Rating Agency that is in the process of being established for the Union Academy area through Pinellas County.
4. **Updating and Expanding Our Special Area Plan and Smart Plan (e.g., the City's Transect-Based Infill Code)** - These existing planning tools are being updated to accommodate the new efforts described above.

The initiatives described above clearly place Tarpon Springs in the “fastlane” for improving our position in tourist development within the Tampa Bay area. We believe the effort is not limited to acceptance by only the City’s business and tourist areas. Instead, we have made sure through the strategic planning process that this approach is consistent with the wishes of our City residents and businesses as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination to the Tourist Development Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Costa Vatikiotis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke across the top of the name.

Costa Vatikiotis
Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs

Coats, Nikki

From: Sonny Flynn <sonny@sonnysnest.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 6:01 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Cc: Hayes, Steve; Coats, Nikki
Subject: TDC Application

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioner Justice,

I have applied for one of the tourism related seats on the TDC. It is my desire to be involved in and serve our community. however I recently discovered that the two seats up for reappointment are held by Phil Henderson and Doreen Moore. Both are strong tourism advocates and community leaders. It is out of respect for them I would like to withdraw my application.

I appreciate your understanding and I will continue to find ways to participate and serve in our community.

Thank you for your time.

Sonny Flynn