

Tourist Development Council
Created Pursuant to Code s. 71.238

Powers & Duties:

The Council shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Conduct public hearings to receive information from the public with respect to the effectiveness of the existing tourist development efforts by both public and private agencies, organizations, and businesses and the need for additional or different tourist development efforts.
2. Recommend a method of coordination of existing tourist development efforts by both public and private agencies, organizations, and businesses and of new or additional tourist development efforts to obtain maximum economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the tourist development efforts in and for Martin County.
3. Identify and recommend methods of eliminating unnecessary duplications in existing tourist development efforts by both public and private agencies, organizations, and businesses and preventing or minimizing such duplications of new or proposed tourist development efforts.
4. Identify and develop new tourist development efforts by both public and private agencies, organizations, and businesses.
5. Create, prepare, and submit to the Board a Tourist Development Plan in the manner meeting the requirements of F.S.125.0104, and, from time to time thereafter, make recommendations to the Board for changes to the Tourist Development Plan.
6. From time to time, to make recommendations to the Board for the effective operation of the special projects or uses provided for in the Tourist Development Plan.
7. Review the expenditures of revenues authorized in the Tourist Development Plan and report to the Board and to the State Department of Revenue as required by F.S. 125.0104.
8. Adopt, amend, and repeal rules and to implement the provisions of any ordinance for which it is responsible.
9. Submit an annual report to the Board of its activities and of the issues and progress of the tourist development efforts in and for the County.

How Appointed:

The Council shall be composed of nine members as follows. All members of the Council shall be electors of Martin County at the time of appointment and while serving on the Council. The Chair of the Board or any other member the Board, as designated by the Chair of the Board, who shall also serve as Chair of the Council. Two members who are elected municipal officers, at least one of whom shall be from the most populous municipality in the County. Three members who are owners or operators of motels, hotels, recreational vehicle parks, or other tourist accommodations in the County that are subject to the tourist development tax. Three members who are involved in the tourist industry and who have demonstrated an interest in tourist development, but who are not owners or operators of motels, hotels, recreational vehicle parks, or other tourist accommodations in the County that are subject to the tourist development tax.

Terms: The members of the Council shall serve for staggered terms of four years. There shall be no limit on the number of terms an individual member may serve.

Meetings: Meetings shall be held at least once each quarter.

Staff Liaison: Nerissa Okiye, Tourism Director

Member	Position	Appointed	Term End
Stacey Hetherington	County Commissioner	11/19/2024	11/18/2025
Frank Fender	Elected Municipal Officer - Town of Sewall's Pt	02/13/2018	02/01/2029
Campbell Rich	Elected Municipal Official - City of Stuart	01/14/2025	02/01/2029
Edward Griffith Jr.	Hotelier	04/23/2019	07/29/2027
Nimesh Patel	Hotelier – Best Western	07/11/2017	07/10/2029
Christopher Vitale	Hotelier – Old Colorado Inn	03/12/2024	08/22/2027
Nancy Benzenberg resigned	Involved in the tourist industry	07/11/2025	07/10/2029
Patricia O'Connell	Involved in the tourist industry	04/28/2023	04/27/2027
Robert Steele	Involved in the tourist industry	07/30/2019	07/29/2027

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