

OPENING MESSAGE FROM SAADIA, CRA MEETING OF 5-28-19, by Saadia Tsafarides

Many thanks to the Board of Martin County Commissioners for your vote of confidence in my ability to hold the position of Chairwoman of the Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency. Thank you for recognizing my love for the betterment of our Martin County community. I am proud to be one of the Martin County's Community Redevelopment volunteers serving with such outstanding and dedicated community volunteers.

I believe we all have the same objective, the commitment that everyone should have a safe, clean and welcoming neighborhood to call home. It is a privilege to work with those who truly believe in the quality of life for others with opportunities for businesses and workforce housing – making our six neighborhoods walkable and sustainable places to live, work and play.

During my tenure, I would like to accomplish the following:

- **EDUCATION:** Consider developing a program containing credits with a certificate of completion -- possibly 6 sessions starting with "CRA 101." I am sure we still have the videos from the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council seminars held last year for all to review. Make all seminars mandatory for members of the NACs and CRA.
- **OUTREACH:** NAC and CRA members should listen to residents, business owners, and long-time property owners; meet with them, describe and discuss the neighborhood master plan. Assist them with signing up for the CRA on-line newsletter and notifications. Be active ambassadors for your neighborhoods and the CRA program. Share your neighborhood's story by sending e-mail updates.

I remember a commercial on TV stating that the "well informed consumer is our best customer."

- **NOTIFICATION:** All CRA neighborhoods should have electronic digital signs announcing NAC meeting dates and time. Increase community participation at meetings.
- **PUBLIC & PRIVATE INVESTMENT:** Marketing of the Redevelopment program through all appropriate means, especially the proposed Comprehensive Plan Chapter 18 and associated regulations that are specific to accomplishing Community Redevelopment. Keep an open mind and search for processes and programs that have worked in other communities and could be potential tools for achieving our CRA objectives.

Finally, when we raise the quality of life for the poorest among us, we, by that same degree, raise the quality of life for our most fortunate citizens.

We owe staff a lot for the hard work done behind the scenes, and forgive me, if I ever step out of line.

Thanks to all involved and believers of community revitalization.