

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT – Martin County Community
Redevelopment Agency – Please Print**

☒ Golden Gate
☐ Old Palm City

☐ Hobe Sound
☐ Port Salerno

☐ Jensen Beach
☐ Rio

☐ At-Large

ENTERED

DEC - 4 2020

Type of Member check all that apply:

- ☒ A resident of the community redevelopment area; or
☐ A resident of Martin County and engaged in a business within the area of operation of the community redevelopment area which means: owning a business, practicing a profession, performing a service for compensation, or serving as an officer or director of a corporation or other business entity so engaged; or
☐ A resident of Martin County and own real property within a mile of the community redevelopment area; and
☒ **Must** have served as Chair for their respective Neighborhood Advisory Committee (At-Large position excluded from this requirement).

☐ **If engaged in a business - name & physical address of business:** _____

☐ **If a resident of Martin County owning real property within a mile of the respective the CRA – physical address of property other than your residence:** _____

Check One: ☐ Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss ☐ Dr.

Name: SAADIA M TSAFTARIDES

INCUMBENT

Residence Address: 3450 SE FAIRMONT ST STUART, FL 34997
Street/City/Zip Code

Mailing Address: Same Above
(If different) Street/City/Zip Code

Commission District in which you reside: 2 ^{PH} Staff will complete.

Are you available year round to attend meetings? ☒ yes ☐ no If no, what months are you available?

Telephone numbers: daytime: 202 9017 alternate: 285 3699 alternate: _____
~Area Codes are considered 772 unless you note otherwise.

EMAIL: tsaftaridesine@aol.com

Have you ever pled guilty or "no contest" to a crime, been convicted of a crime, had adjudication withheld, prosecution deferred, been placed on probation, received a suspended sentence or forfeited bail in connection with any offense (except minor traffic violations)? Please show all convictions, including driving while intoxicated (DUI) convictions. ☐ yes ☒ no If yes, please provide the following information:

TYPE OF OFFENCES: _____

DATES: _____

→ CONTINUED →

PLACES (city/state): _____

SENTENCES OR FINES: _____

A conviction record does not necessarily disqualify you for consideration. Factors such as age at time of offense, nature of violation, and rehabilitation will be considered. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners retains the right to remove, at will, any appointee to a Board or Committee with or without cause.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE: A resume is recommended to be attached containing this and any other information that would be helpful to the Board in evaluating your application. Resume or letter of qualifications attached? ☒ yes ☐ no

Education: My Resume is on file

Employment Experience: _____

Other experience you feel would be helpful to the Board in making this appointment: _____

I Have Been an Advocate For Golden Gate For 21 years

Community Experience and Affiliations: NAC - CRA - CAC, MPO.

Other County Boards/Committees/Task Forces on which you have served: CBBB

Still Current

Do you or any member of your immediate family work for Martin County or hold a position that might conflict with your duties for this Board/Committee/Task Force? If yes, please explain: no

REFERENCES: Please list two references:

Ms AUDREY BAHLAN Tyne

Ms Julie Preast

- Applicants are required by State Law and County Ordinance to file a Financial Disclosure Statement as part of the appointment process.
- Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing and that the facts stated in it are true. (Pursuant to Section 92.525 Florida Statutes, falsifying this application is a Third Degree Felony punishable by up to five years imprisonment and up to a \$5,000 fine.)
- Florida law prohibits an advisory board member from doing business with its agency (the County). Section 112.313(3) and (7), Fla. Stat.

→ **Signature:**

Scott Tsiftandes

Date: 12/01/2020

Applications must be filed with Martin County Administration, 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996 **by Monday, December 7, 2020**. All information submitted becomes public record. If you have any questions, please call (772) 221-1352 or send email to dgordon@martin.fl.us.

Who is Saadia Tsaftarides?

Against all odds, Saadia Tsaftarides did what many believe is impossible in Martin County. She united the usual fractious sides of the political spectrum in a common cause – to improve the lives of those who live in her Golden Gate community.

She did it primarily through her deep faith in the power of love – and dozens and dozens of cookies, her delicious and famous Rum Cake and countless Moroccan dinners.

To understand the hurdles she faced, you must understand first that Saadia came to the United States in the early 1971 as a scholarship recipient of the UNCEF. Her military sponsor family moved to Pensacola where she attended the last year of High school and then on to Pensacola Junior College. She meets her first husband while he was in the flight School and started a family.

Fluent in English and French, in addition to her native Moroccan, she took advantage of her international background to establish her own import-export business while working for the USAID.

While in Washington DC, she also was a consultant to others interested in international trade, serving as chair of the Partners for International Education and Training Committee for the Entrepreneurs International business exchange.

While in Melbourne, she raised three children as a single mother, setting an example of community service with Chambers of Commerce, Jaycees, the Exchange Club, as founder of the Brevard County Women in International Trade and as co-founder of the Magical Order of Superb Executives, a support group for executive women, as well as giving her time to other volunteer groups.

After marrying a Greek carpenter and building contractor, Chris Tsaftarides (SAF-tax-ridees), in late 1999, she found herself living in "Golden Gate a/k/a Golden Ghetto". Saadia immediately became active in her new community by instigating and working with local law enforcement and the County to rid her neighborhood of crack houses, brothels and slam landlords.

She also saw a great need among the predominantly Hispanic, transient population for teaching English as a second language in their homes, for homework help for the children, and for family assistance with reading, health and other social services. Teaching the mothers how to hang curtains instead of cardboards, she even wakens many times in middle of the night to drive her neighbors to hospital while in labor or just for emergency.

She investigated the possibility of renovating the Historic Golden Gate building on Dixie Highway, seeing its potential not only for historic preservation, but as a center to enrich the lives of those who live in Golden Gate. Saadia discovered the building had been deemed too decrepit to save, thus was targeted for demolition.

An answer spurred her into finding a better solution and sent her into the offices of Martin County Commissioners and the Martin County General Services Director. She was appointed to the Martin County Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, pulling together her Golden Gate neighbors and others who

influential citizens on the local and state level to found and chair the Friends of the Historic Golden Gate Building Inc., a 501(c)3 organization.

Her cookies got her in the door and her Moroccan dinners became major fundraisers, as the group raised funds enough to match state and county grants. After 17 years of perseverance, Saadia saw her dream come true with the restoration of the external structure, and then just 18 months ago, the House of Hope through a private donation renovated the interior. and the Golden Gate Center for Enrichment opened its doors while Saadia and Community's vision come to reality.

she always says, **"I am truly deeply committed to the idea that everyone should have a safe, clean and welcoming neighborhood to call home"** and she quote

"When we raise the quality of life for the poorest among us, we, by that same degree, raise the quality of life of our most fortunate citizens"

The center, operated by the House of Hope, offers residents – not only in Golden Gate but from throughout the county – the range of services she always envisioned, plus access to a bank of computers, after-school assistance and enrichment activities for Golden Gate children.

Saadia was appointed in 2002 to the Golden Gate Neighborhood Advisory Committee for the Golden Gate Community Redevelopment Area, in 2011 was appointed to the board of the independent Community Redevelopment Agency and was re-appointed in 2016 as it is vice chair.

She also is chair of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee for Golden Gate, which she has pushed very hard and made sure the need for septic-to-sewer conversion on the schedule currently for early 2019, improved drainage, lighting and code enforcement, and campaign and got funding for the resurfacing Dixie HWY/ A-1-A.

Much work remains in order to complete the ambitious plans for the beautiful Golden Gate building, named in 2017 to the National Registry of Historic Buildings, including an expansion of the building, the preservation of original artwork on the inside of its walls, and a community garden.

No one has any doubt that Saadia and her abundant heart will be at the center of the activity, raising awareness along with raising funds for the building that stands today as a symbol of one woman's love for her adopted home while others take the credits for her accomplishments.

Article writing by Barbara Clodus for her newspaper.

Marianne Moore
3015 SE Bonita Street
Stuart, FL 34997

December 2, 2020

Martin County Commissioners

Subject: CRA Nomination

Dear Commissioners,

Greetings! I am writing you this letter to let you know why Saadia should stay on the CRA board another term. Saadia Tsafarides is the best advocate for the Golden Gate Community.

Saadia has been a friend, a good neighbor, Encyclopedia and a champion fighter for the betterment of the Golden Gate community for over twenty-one years. We met by chance through our formally Golden Gate Homeowners Association.

Saadia did not enjoyed the complains and the bickering during the first meeting. She decided to do something about it by meeting with the former Commissioner Mr. Dennis Armstrong to let him know how she felt.

After that meeting it resulted to the establishment of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee. She volunteered to head the renovation of the Historic Golden Gate Building. She reported to the NAC at every meeting, assisted and advised every one of us during restoration update.

Saadia is a source of knowledge, guidance, support, and encouragement to everyone in the community even sometimes she wanted to give up. She represented us at the Commissioners meetings and was a vital force in helping us communicating the community needs to the board. When the things got tough, she advised and stood by us when she started the non-profit organization (The Friends of the Historic Golden Gate Community, Inc) instead of the Neighborhood Association.

She devoted many hours, days, months and years to the betterment of our community. Saadia has been a God sent, wonderful hard worker and a blessing to have as a very honorable member of our community. Honestly no one can come close to filling her shoes on the CRA, for that we are truly humble and grateful.

Warm regards,

Marianne Moore

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne Moore". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

July 30, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Nearly 20 years ago while working as a planner, I was walking door to door in the Golden Gate neighborhood, meeting residents, sitting across kitchen tables and gathering input that would help shape the Golden Gate Community Redevelopment Plan. On one fateful day, I knocked on the door of Saadia and Cristos Tsafarides. As I learned about Saadia's past professional and civic work and clear passion for change in the Golden Gate community it was evident that she could serve a critical role in fostering change in Golden Gate. She has jokingly reminded me that she has not quite forgiven me for encouraging her to apply for the Neighborhood Advisory Committee, but I do believe she agrees that it was her destiny to be a part of it.

Saadia has requested I provide a letter of recommendation for her continued appointment on the Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency, and I am honored to do so. While it was an honor to serve Martin County as a staff person, the honor in the work of redevelopment truly belongs to the neighborhood leaders who have selflessly given of their time, talent and treasure to shape the future of their communities-- who showed up when it was easier to stay home, who continued to speak up for two decades on what was needed in order for their communities to become stronger and more vibrant.

Saadia has donated countless hours of her time to the hard work of redevelopment, even developing a nonprofit organization to propel redevelopment projects forward, most notably the Golden Gate Building that would not have survived or have been turned into the amazing community asset it now serves without her perseverance. I have also observed the less noticable ways she has given that show her intent and dedication -- ensuring computers were available at the Cassidy Community Center, hosting a meal around her table to encourage collaboration and positive change and distributing food to neighbors in need or, most recently, facial coverings.

Saadia is passionate about what she believes and sometimes did not agree with staff, including me. But I can vouch for her dedication and desire to truly build a community for which everyone can be proud. We need more neighbors like Saadia who dedicate themselves to making our community stronger. Thank you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Parmelee".

Kate Parmelee
Jensen Beach, FL

BONNIE LANDRY

& ASSOCIATES Professional Planning Services

July 15, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of knowing Saadia Tsafarides for ten years in the Planning Industry. I would highly recommend her to the Golden Gate Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

I am Bonnie C. Landry, Principal at Bonnie C. Landry and Associates. I have twenty-five years of experience in professional planning in Martin, St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties. I have worked with many bright individuals but Saadia Tsafarides's talent and problem-solving skills stand out among her peers. I remain impressed with her passion with redevelopment and historic preservation.

My first experience with Saadia's work ethic came when she was a volunteer to both the Golden Gate Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) and to the Historic Preservation Board (HPB). During my tenure as a planner at Martin County Board of County Commissioners, I worked side by side with her on both redevelopment and historic preservation projects located in the Golden Gate Community Redevelopment Area. Saadia's skills and understanding of her community helped the CRA in collaboration with the Historic Preservation Board to successfully restore the Historic Golden Gate Building from a deserted building in risk of demolition to an active community asset.

As a result of our hours of working together, she and I had the honor of attending a conference for the Florida Redevelopment Association where we received an award for the restoration of the Golden Gate Building.

I am confident Saadia will continue to be a great asset as a volunteer to Martin County particularly with the Golden Gate Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need more information or would like to discuss any of her other achievements. You can reach me at 772-201-5052, or by email at bonnie@bclandry.com

Sincerely,



Bonnie C. Landry, AICP
Principal, Bonnie C. Landry and Associates

Audrey Ballantyne
1256 SE Fleming Way
Stuart, FL 34997

11/30/20

Re: Sardia Tsafarides

The Commissioners:

This letter confirms that I have known Sardia Tsafarides for the past 15 years as a friend and as a person of irrefutable character.

Sardia has been a person over the years that you can rely on. A most distinguish and trustworthy person, someone who strongly believes that character and integrity counts.

She is a community builder and a stalwart leader, a person I am proud to call my friend. Whatever role that she is called upon to perform I am confident she will do it well.

She still has time and will continue to do well, do not be afraid to use her ability.

Sincerely,


Audrey Ballantyne

Saadia Tsafarides

3450 SE Fairmont Street
Stuart, FL 34997

December 2, 2020

Subject: CRA Nomination

Dear Danna Gordon,

Greetings! I hope all is well with you and yours. I am enclosing a support letters instead of my resume because you have one on file already. I have not worked for the past twenty-one years because I devoted all my time as a volunteer at the County. I became full time advocate for the Golden Gate Community.

By now I am positive that the Commissioners and the wonderful staff are too know me very well. What I stand for, is the betterment of the Golden Gate Community and the other five CRA communities...

Enclosed is an article that Barbara Clodus has writing about me awhile back that describes honestly who I am and stand for. I am truly grateful to the former planners that I worked with, the friends and the residents that believes in me.

However, I am truly grateful for the accomplishments and the improvements I was part of that benefited my Community. I am hoping to stay on to finish the ongoing projects that currently in process not to mention the support and the trust that my community given me.

With gratitude,

Saadia Tsafarides

H: 772 202 9017

C:772 285 3699

Stuart FL 34994

Dec. 9, 2020

RE: Saadia Tsafarides application as CRA board member

Honorable Commissioners:

It seems entirely unnecessary to write a recommendation for Saadia Tsafarides. After all, you all have known her for years. Her work for "her" Golden Gate community over the past two decades is near-legendary, and she carries that same passion for successful community revitalization to all six Community Redevelopment Areas.

In the wider community, she is known as a woman of integrity, grit, and hard work. Perhaps most important, she has earned a reputation as being reliable and honest. She does what she says she'll do. That level of conscientiousness seems to me to be often overlooked as a critical attribute for volunteer positions, and certainly should be considered in selecting residents to serve on the CRA board.

On a personal level, I've known Saadia for more than a decade and have been amazed at her boundless energy and love for others, even strangers, whom she'll likely invite to her table to share one of her Moroccan dishes. Suddenly, they are strangers no more.

I heartily recommend without reservation that the BOCC re-appoint Saadia Tsafarides to the Martin County CRA.

Barbara Clowdus, Publisher

Martin County Currents

Barbara Clowdus <barbara@martincountycurrents.com>

RECEIVED

By Donna Gordon at 7:32 am, Dec 10, 2020