



**AGENDA REPORT
February 12, 2019**

**Board Consideration: Letter Seeking Guidance from Brevard Delegation,
District 3**

SUBJECT:

Letter Seeking Guidance from Brevard Delegation

DEPT/OFFICE:

District 3

REQUESTED ACTION:

Consider Board approval of the attached letter, to be sent to members of the Brevard Delegation.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:

During the Brevard Delegation Meeting which took place on January 15, 2019, the Delegation considered a local bill, proposed by Representative Randy Fine, which would have given the Board certain limited authority over Community Redevelopment Agencies that were created before the Brevard County Charter was enacted. The bill failed to obtain majority support.

During discussion of this item and others, the Delegation professed strong support for the principles of home-rule. These pre-charter CRAs expend, in part, County ad-valorem revenue despite a lack of oversight authority on the part of the Board. Clearly, this arrangement is contrary to any fair representation of the principles of home-rule.

The attached letter briefly summarizes the Board's position, and requests guidance on what actions the Board might take to protect local governance and oversight over tax revenue collected in its name.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- **Letter to Brevard Delegation RE: Home Rule**



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

February 13, 2019

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Kristine Isnardi, Commissioner District 5

RE: Item J.7., Letter Seeking Guidance from Brevard Delegation

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 12, 2019, authorized you to execute and send a Letter to the member of the Brevard Delegation regarding Community Redevelopment Agencies that were created before the Brevard County Charter was enacted. Enclosed is the Letter.

Upon execution of the Letter, please send to Senator Tommy Write, and provide a copy of the Letter to this office for inclusion in the official minutes.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/ds

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner



**BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 30, 2019

Senator Tommy Wright
Chairman, Brevard County Delegation
4606 Clyde Morris Boulevard
Suite 2-J
Port Orange, FL 32129

During its Regular Board Meeting on February 12th, 2019, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to ratify the following letter to the Brevard Delegation:

Honorable Chair and Distinguished Members of the Brevard Delegation,

Thank you for your service to the State, and for the opportunity you provided to discuss a local bill regarding Community Redevelopment Agencies during the Delegation Meeting on January 15th, 2019. We fully respect your decision on this bill, and the home-rule based rationale behind it.

Currently there are three pre-charter CRAs to which the County contributes approximately \$1.2 million of annual revenue. ~~Unfortunately, two of these CRAs have acted unlawfully, according to the Brevard County Attorney's Office.~~

The County has done its part in attempting to rectify this situation and protect its home-rule authority over these funds. First, in August of 2017, we sought out information on how these CRAs are spending County tax dollars. Upon receiving this information, we attempted to enter into negotiations with these CRAs and their governing authorities to find common-ground. This effort has failed; indeed, at least one of these CRAs has taken action directly contrary to our Board's reasonable requests, with no consultation whatsoever. Second, a majority of the members of the Board then supported the local bill, which would have been a small step in the County recovering some of its home-rule authority. You determined that this bill was not in the best interest of the State.

Since the Delegation has made clear its support for home-rule, we would appreciate your guidance. *What course of action do you recommend the County take in order to exercise its most basic home-rule authority in having some measure of oversight over its own revenue, particularly when it has been spent in a manner which may ~~be unlawful~~ have been questionable?*

Again, thank you for serving the people of Brevard County. We have the upmost respect for the work that you do, and would value your input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kristine Isnardi, Chairwoman

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

Cc:

Senator Debbie Mayfield

Representative Thad Altman

Representative Randy Fine

Representative Rene Plasencia

Representative Tyler Sirois



**BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 30, 2019

Senator Tommy Wright
Chairman, Brevard County Delegation
4606 Clyde Morris Boulevard
Suite 2-J
Port Orange, FL 32129

During its Regular Board Meeting on February 12th, 2019, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to ratify the following letter to the Brevard Delegation:

Honorable Chair and Distinguished Members of the Brevard Delegation,

Thank you for your service to the State, and for the opportunity you provided to discuss a local bill regarding Community Redevelopment Agencies during the Delegation Meeting on January 15th, 2019. We fully respect your decision on this bill, and the home-rule based rationale behind it.

Currently there are three pre-charter CRAs to which the County contributes approximately \$1.2 million of annual revenue.

The County has done its part in attempting to rectify this situation and protect its home-rule authority over these funds. First, in August of 2017, we sought out information on how these CRAs are spending County tax dollars. Upon receiving this information, we attempted to enter into negotiations with these CRAs and their governing authorities to find common-ground. This effort has failed; indeed, at least one of these CRAs has taken action directly contrary to our Board's reasonable requests, with no consultation whatsoever. Second, a majority of the members of the Board then supported the local bill, which would have been a small step in the County recovering some of its home-rule authority. You determined that this bill was not in the best interest of the State.

Since the Delegation has made clear its support for home-rule, we would appreciate your guidance. *What course of action do you recommend the County take in order to exercise its most basic home-rule authority in having some measure of oversight over its own revenue, particularly when it has been spent in a manner which may have been questionable?*

Again, thank you for serving the people of Brevard County. We have the upmost respect for the work that you do, and would value your input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kristine Isnardi, Chair
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

Cc:

Senator Debbie Mayfield

Representative Thad Altman

Representative Randy Fine

Representative Rene Plasencia

Representative Tyler Sirois