

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, READOPTING THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TEXT AND MAP AMENDMENTS TO THE FUTURE LAND USE AND HOUSING ELEMENTS; ESTABLISHING WITHIN THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ITS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INCLUDING TWO MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT AREAS AND ELEVEN DESIGNATED CHARACTER DISTRICTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AS ADOPTED AND REVISED BY ORDINANCES 2010-13, 2010-15, 2011-19 and 2012-21; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on or about August 26, 2008, the City Commission of St. Pete Beach adopted an amendment to its comprehensive plan creating a Community Redevelopment District (CRD) future land use category, and amending the future land use map to designate property in the City as CRD (the Plan Amendment), pursuant to section 163.32465, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2008, Petitioner, William Pyle, timely challenged the Plan Amendment, pursuant to section 163.32465(6)(a), Florida Statutes, alleging the Plan Amendment was not "in compliance" as that term is defined in section 163.3184, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, an administrative hearing was conducted on February 10-11, 2009, to determine whether the Plan Amendment was "in compliance"; and

WHEREAS, the Administrative Law Judge issued a Recommended Order on May 4, 2009, recommending the Department of Community Affairs find the Plan Amendment "in compliance"; and

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2009, the Department of Community Affairs issued a Final Order determining the Plan Amendment "in compliance" with the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, section 163.3189(2)(a), Florida Statutes, provides that a plan amendment takes effect upon the issuance of a final order determining the plan amendment "in compliance"; and

WHEREAS, thirty days following the Department's "in compliance" finding, William Pyle ("Pyle") appealed the Department of Community Affairs' Final Order to the First District

Court of Appeal, which affirmed the Department of Community Affairs' determination of consistency on March 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Pyle's appeal of the Final Order did not stay the effectiveness of the Plan Amendment and it has been in effect under the Growth Management Act since August 11, 2009; and

WHEREAS, under City Charter section 3.15, the Plan Amendment adopted in 2008 was required to be approved by a Citywide referendum; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2008, the voters of St. Pete Beach overwhelmingly approved the Plan Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Amendment was the subject of litigation brought by Plaintiffs William Pyle and Bruce Kadoura, (*Kadoura v. Huhn, et al.*, Case No. 08-12498-CI-08) in circuit court alleging, among other matters, that the ballot summary for the ordinance approving the Plan Amendment was invalid under section 101.161, Florida Statutes, governing ballot summaries for referendum issues; and requesting that the election to approve the Plan Amendment be declared invalid under City Charter section 3.15; and

WHEREAS, the City prevailed in the circuit court challenge as to all counts alleging failure to adhere to notice, hearing and review procedures in adoption of the Plan Amendment; significantly, the court ruled on December 29, 2010 that the City properly adopted the comprehensive plan amendment under the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the circuit court determined that the referendum was invalid and that in order to comply with the then existing City Charter section 3.15, a new referendum would be required, but ruled in the City's favor on all other issues; and

WHEREAS, the Final Judgments in the litigation in circuit court brought by William Pyle and Bruce Kadoura were appealed, but those appeals were dismissed prior to determination; and

WHEREAS, the Future Land Use Element of the City Comprehensive Plan was amended by Ordinance 2010-13, adopted July 12, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Future Land Use Element, Future Land Use Map and Recreation Elements of the City Comprehensive Plan were amended by Ordinance 2010-15, adopted July 12, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan was amended by Ordinance 2012-21 adopted November 13, 2012

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2011, the electors of St. Pete Beach voted to repeal section 3.15 of the City Charter, rendering those appellate issues moot; and

WHEREAS, the St. Pete Beach City Charter no longer requires such referendum approval of comprehensive plan amendments; and

WHEREAS, such a referendum is now prohibited by the Growth Management Act, specifically s.163.3167(8), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Amendment has been challenged both administratively and in the circuit courts and found to be in compliance with the Growth Management Act and these determinations are final; and

WHEREAS, s. 163.21466, Florida Statutes was adopted in 2011 upon the passage of HB 7207, and provides, "a comprehensive plan amendment adopted pursuant to s. 163.32465, Florida Statutes, and found in compliance before the effective date of this act, may be readopted by ordinance, shall become effective upon approval by the local government, and is not subject to review or challenge pursuant to the provisions of s. 163.32465 or s. 163.3184, Florida Statutes;" and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Pete Beach, as authorized by s. 163.32466, Florida Statutes, on June 28, 2011, by Ordinance 2011-19, readopted the Plan Amendment originally adopted by Ordinance 2008-15; and

WHEREAS, the validity of that adoption and the Plan Amendment, including the constitutionality of s. 163.32466, Florida Statutes, was challenged by James Anderson in Circuit Court on February 11, 2011 in the case of James Anderson v. City of St. Pete Beach, Circuit Civil No. 11-1319-CI-11; and

WHEREAS, as the circuit court has upheld the readoption, the Plan Amendment and the constitutionality of s. 163.32466, Florida Statutes; and rejected all challenges brought by James Anderson; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Appeal to the District Court of Appeal of that Final Order upholding the validity of the Plan Amendment was filed on November 28, 2012 and that appeal is currently pending in James Anderson v. City of St. Pete Beach, Case No. 2D12-5969; and

WHEREAS, it is uncertain when a final decision on that matter will be rendered by the District Court of Appeal; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Amendment remains in effect pending resolution of the Appeal; however, there remains some uncertainty due to the pending appeal, pending legislation, and other litigation in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Pete Beach desires to comply with the state law mandating the adoption of a comprehensive plan, limit further litigation expenditures, bring closure to some issues in pending appeal, remove uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of the Plan

Amendment, provide certainty as to the property rights of its citizens and to implement the Plan Amendment, which remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds it is in the best interest of the public to readopt, re-paginate and reformat the Plan Amendments adopted by Ordinance 2011-19, as further revised by ordinances 2010-13, 2010-15, 2012-21 (the "Plan Amendments") which are already in effect under the Growth Management Act, but which were, in part, allegedly not validly approved; and

WHEREAS, former City Charter sections 3.15, 3.16 and 3.18, which required voter approval of certain comprehensive land use plan amendments, land development code regulations and community redevelopment plans, have been repealed by the voters, and in part, prohibited by State law;

WHEREAS, all notice requirements and public hearing requirements of Florida law have been met;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. READOPTION OF PLAN AMENDMENTS

- (A) The City Commission hereby adopts the text and map amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Plan Element and Housing Plan Element, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY

If any portion, part or section of this Ordinance is declared invalid, the valid remainder hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. CONFLICT WITH OTHER ORDINANCES

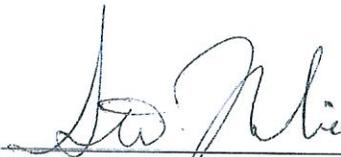
All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed, to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

READOPTED this 13th day of August, 2013.

**CITY COMMISSION OF ST. PETE BEACH,
FLORIDA**



Steve McFarlin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk



THE SUNSET CAPITAL OF FLORIDA

City of St. Pete Beach Comprehensive Plan *Future Land Use Element Housing Element*

*St. Pete Beach Comprehensive Plan
Adopted: October 1998
Amended: August 2013*

City of St Pete Beach Comprehensive Plan
-Table of Contents-

I. Citizen Input on Community Redevelopment	Pages 1-3
II. Future Land Use Plan Element	
<i>-Green Mission Statement</i>	Page 4
<i>-General Provisions (Quality Community-Planning to Stay)</i>	Pages 5-6
<i>-Future Land Use Goals, Objectives, and Policies</i>	Pages 7-30
<i>-Special Designation-Community Redevelopment District</i>	Page 31
A. Definitions	Pages 32-36
B. Community Redevelopment District	
<i>-General Provisions and Maps</i>	Pages 37-42
<i>-Goals, Objectives, and Policies</i>	Pages 43-49
<i>-General Redevelopment Guidelines</i>	Pages 50-61
<i>-Density Reserved for CRD</i>	Pages 62-64
<i>-Other Standards for the CRD</i>	Page 65
C. Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District	
<i>-General Provisions</i>	Page 66
<i>-Goals, Objectives, and Policies</i>	Pages 67-71
<i>-Large Resort District (LR)</i>	Pages 72-79
<i>-Boutique Hotel/Condo District (B-HC)</i>	Pages 80-83
<i>-Activity Center District (AC)</i>	Pages 84-87
<i>-Bayou Residential District (BR)</i>	Pages 88-89
D. Downtown Redevelopment District	
<i>-General Provisions</i>	Page 90
<i>-Goals, Objectives, and Policies</i>	Pages 91-95
<i>-Town Center Core District (TC-1)</i>	Pages 96-98
<i>-Town Center Corey Circle District (TC-2)</i>	Pages 99-101
<i>-Town Center Coquina West District (TC-2)</i>	Pages 102-104
<i>-Town Center Temporary Lodging Use (TC-2)</i>	Page 105
<i>-Downtown Core Residential District (DCR)</i>	Pages 106-107
<i>-Upham Beach Village District (UBV)</i>	Pages 108-110
<i>-Commercial Corridor Blind Pass Road District (CC-1)</i>	Pages 111-113
<i>-Commercial Corridor Gulf Boulevard District (CC-2)</i>	Pages 114-116
III. Housing Plan Element	
<i>-Housing Goals, Objectives, and Policies</i>	Pages 118-122
IV. Coastal High Hazard Area Map	Page 123

Please Note: This Table of Contents is for reference only and is not part of the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

I. Citizen Input on Community Redevelopment

The following are ten important factors that reflect existing conditions within the City along with resident suggestions and input during a nearly six year process beginning in December 2001. These principles have guided residents of the City in their preparation of this amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Plan and Map, and the Housing Element.

- (1) The City is essentially a "built-out" community. Of the 1,286.10 acres that comprise the community, approximately 13.40 acres, or 1.04 percent, are vacant and undeveloped.
- (2) There is strong community objection to high density unmanaged overdevelopment of our coastal Gulf community that will further degrade infrastructure and public services.
- (3) There is a strong desire to protect the quiet character of existing residential neighborhoods from encroachment and overdevelopment of non-residential uses.
- (4) There is a strong desire by both residents and multi-generational local hotel and motel owners to preserve the heritage of our City as a tourist destination because it is the foundation of our local economy and it offers the residents a diversity of services and amenities as well as public access to our beaches.
- (5) Residents and local shop owners have also expressed a strong desire to revitalize the Downtown Corey area and create a vibrant main street that invites residents and visitors alike to shop, dine, play, work and live in a pedestrian-friendly and safe environment.
- (6) Residents have demanded that policies and strategies be adopted and implemented that maintain and improve existing infrastructure systems and facilities that ensure adequate capacity for new development that will maintain and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.
- (7) Residents have expressed a need and desire to create a more environmentally friendly sustainable community that will improve the quality of life for residents and visitors by requiring the City to initiate an application with the Florida Green Building Coalition for certification as a Florida Green City and establishing goals, objectives and policies promoting Green practices and strategies for redevelopment that will be implemented through the City's land development and building regulations. The ultimate objective of certification and implementation is to rebuild a sustainable quality livable community that will:
 - (a) Conserve water and other natural resources;
 - (b) Lower energy consumption and operating costs both for private development as well as public improvements and public amenities;
 - (c) Reduce traffic congestion and impacts on our roads by designing a "walkable" community that provides safe and comfortable pedestrian, bicycle, trolley and other environmentally-friendly modes of community mobility that also will reduce Greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and encourage outdoor fitness initiatives to promote a healthier City and healthier residents:

- (d) Reduce waste sent to landfills and increase utilization of recycling programs;
 - (e) Provide for disaster mitigation strategies;
 - (f) Maintain public access to our beaches and waterfronts using environmentally sensitive design;
 - (g) Implement land development regulations that protect our waterways, Gulf beaches and Gulf waters from pollutants and debris that can harm natural resources including plant and species habitats;
 - (h) Continue efforts to protect the sea turtle and preserve its habitat by maintaining and improving sea turtle protection regulations;
 - (i) Demonstrate the community's commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.
- (8) Residents have expressed a need and desire for a safer community through redevelopment of aging, functionally obsolete and vacant properties to:
- (a) Reduce crime and vagrancy; and
 - (b) Replace older structures and buildings with new construction that meets current Building Code standards and FEMA flood protection regulations to maximize protection from both wind and flood damage caused by hurricanes and tropical cyclones.
- (9) Residents have expressed a need and desire to improve the safety, traffic flow and appearance of Gulf Boulevard that is the primary and most visible corridor through our community by:
- (a) Improving pedestrian and bicycle safety;
 - (b) Improving the appearance as well as protecting the community from storm damage by placing overhead utilities underground;
 - (c) Improving traffic flow by reducing curb cuts and installing intelligent traffic flow devices; and
 - (d) Creating a visually appealing boulevard worthy of a quality residential and resort community.
- (10) Residents strongly object to more high-rise residential development throughout the City, that if permitted to continue will replace most, if not all, temporary lodging facilities, adversely impact our economy, commercial diversity, as well as diminish public beach and waterfront access. The impact, if permitted to continue under the City's 1998 Comprehensive Plan, will forever change the character and heritage of our City. Historically, the City has been a quality residential community complemented by resorts and supported by a tourist-based economy where residents and visitors for more than 50 years have lived and played in harmony with one another, but many realize that legacy is in jeopardy if corrective regulatory action is not taken.

It is the intent of this Comprehensive Plan amendment, prepared by residents, community leaders, and business as well as hotel owners in an extensive collaborative effort, to address these desires, concerns and objections as expressed by the residents.

This Comprehensive Plan amendment establishes a Community Vision based upon four major Initiatives, a Green Mission Statement, and a Community Redevelopment District that forms the basis of a long-range redevelopment plan for the City's core commercial and resort areas.

This redevelopment plan has several additional components necessary to effectuate the overall redevelopment effort including a Countywide Future Land Use Plan amendment, a Ch. 163 Community Redevelopment Plan and implementing land development regulations that will pursue the stated redevelopment goals with tightly controlled density and design standards.

~~If these plans and regulations are first approved by the voters of St. Pete Beach, and subsequently, the Ch. 163 Plan is approved by the County,~~ The City and its residents will benefit from a Redevelopment Trust Fund and a Community Improvements Fund that will provide capital infrastructure, public improvements and amenities that will improve the safety, services to, and beauty of our City.

II. Future Land Use Plan Element

Green Mission Statement

The residents, local business owners and hotel owners/operators of St. Pete Beach, by and through its local government elected officials and city staff, support achieving a sustainable community by: protecting and conserving water resources; constructing energy efficient and healthy buildings; creating environmentally sensitive site and building design; recycling construction materials and debris; making building, planning and site design decisions that recognize the complexities and environmental sensitivities of our coastal environment and its vulnerability to storms.

By adopting a Green Mission Statement as part of this amendment, the first step will be taken towards becoming the first Coastal Green City in Pinellas County. This step will also support the sustainability efforts of Pinellas County, Florida's first official Green County recognized by the Florida Green Building Coalition Inc., in 2006. This Green Mission Statement is intended to be an overarching environmental mission statement for the entire City extending beyond the boundaries of the Community Redevelopment District in keeping with the spirit of a community redevelopment program that embodies a community mindset that extends well beyond the physical realm. This mission not only embraces a birth of a lifestyle, it promotes a lifestyle that is environmentally and socially responsible.

To achieve these goals, the residents and business community of St. Pete Beach want the City to initiate an application to the Florida Green Building Coalition, Inc., seeking certification as a Green Local Government. This is the second step in formalizing and bringing recognition to this environmental commitment by the residents and the local business community. This commitment is already rapidly becoming evident in our resort community, several of whom have either achieved, are in the process of achieving or intend to seek certification as a Green Building and/or Green Lodge by the Florida Green Building Coalition, Inc., and the Department of Environmental Protection. Ultimately, the Green Mission is a comprehensive effort requiring committed partnerships between the City, its citizens, Pinellas County, neighboring municipalities, developers, local businesses, as well as hotel and resort owner/operators to achieve this vision of long-term sustainability of our barrier island.

Extensive research revealed that the primary way for St. Pete Beach to become a certified Florida Coastal Green City as a result of its built-out and aging condition, is to encourage redevelopment of properties that no longer comply with current safety, environmental, energy and aesthetic standards. Without a plan to redevelop that makes economic sense for landowners to tear down structures and redevelop sites that are not built to these current standards, these buildings and properties will continue to deteriorate in terms of both safety and value as well as consume non-renewable resources and pollute the environment. Without a redevelopment plan, the nearly paved over existing sites that create urban heat, poor drainage, pollutant-filled storm water run-off and greenhouse gas emissions from an auto-dependent community, will continue to cause harm to our natural environment and quality of life, that adversely impacts our health and safety. Further, it was discovered that reconstruction of buildings and the land they are located on as well as our community streetscapes to promote a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly community, is the only way to implement Green practices and technologies that will achieve the conservation and air quality goals of a healthy Green City.

Quality Community – Planning To Stay (General Provisions)

- (a) General Intent. In order to remain consistent with the Rules Concerning the Administration of the Countywide Future Land Use Plan, the following land use category designations and the standards described within each category shall be applied to the City of St. Pete Beach Future Land Use Map. The maps showing the new redevelopment districts that occupy approximately 20% of the total land area of the City and which properties each character district category is applied to, are included herein. The existing land use designations outside the boundaries of the new special area designation – Community Redevelopment District – remain unchanged from the adopted 1998 Plan by this amendment for the remaining 80% of the City.
- (b) Nonconforming Residential and Temporary Lodging Uses, Densities and Intensities –It is the intent of the City of St. Pete Beach to allow for the continuance of existing non-conforming residential and temporary lodging units under the circumstances outlined below:
1. Catastrophic Events. In the case of natural disaster or other catastrophic event over which the owner is presumed to have had no control, residential and temporary lodging properties that were in existence prior to the event may be reconstructed with the same number of units, subject to the LDC requirements other than density and intensity, Florida Building Code requirements and FEMA regulations, in effect at the time of reconstruction.
 2. Routine Maintenance. In the event a residential or temporary lodging use would be considered a non-conforming use under the land use category designated for its property as adopted herein, it is the intent of the City to permit the routine maintenance of these residential or temporary lodging structures which pre-date the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in 2009 that would prohibit their construction today.
 3. FEMA Compliance Required. Notwithstanding any statements to the contrary, there is no intention of superseding any regulations of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or National Flood Insurance Program requirements regarding the protection of properties from flood damage.
 4. Expansion Prohibited. There also is no intention of allowing for the expansion of non-conforming uses or an increase in a non-conforming density or intensity of a use as determined by the Future Land Use Plan and Map designation and implementing zoning regulations effective at the time of the event.
 5. Existing platted lots of record that are located in the Residential Urban, Residential Low Medium, Residential Medium, and Residential High land use categories shall not be prohibited from the construction of one residential unit due to a non-conforming lot size.

- (c) Citywide Land Use Goals, Objectives and Policies. In furtherance of the overall goals, objectives, and policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan, the land use categories and their descriptions, beginning on the next page, are hereby adopted for the purpose of serving as the guide for the City of St. Pete Beach in continuing its heritage of quality residential living complemented by resort facilities that support a tourist-based economy by creating a vision for the City's future that ensures that the City will remain a desirable place to live and visit that includes overall quality land management and emphasis on strict management of redevelopment in designated strategic core areas of the City.

Future Land Use Policies – Green Practices, Residential Character and Introduction to Land Use Categories

GOAL 1:

Support rebuilding and maintaining a sustainable carbon-neutral community by adopting and implementing land development and building regulations that: protect and conserve water resources; promote energy efficient buildings; encourage environmentally sensitive site and building design; facilitate recycling of construction materials and debris; support innovative building and site design that recognizes the complexities and environmental sensitivities of our coastal environment and its vulnerability to storms; and protect and enhancement of the overall environmental quality of our City.

Objective 1.1

To become the first certified Coastal Green City in Pinellas County by the Florida Green Local Government following the leadership and example of Pinellas County as Florida's first Green County.

Policy 1.1.1.

The City shall initiate an application seeking certification as a Green Local Government to the Florida Green Building Coalition, Inc. as an initial step in formalizing and bringing recognition to this commitment.

Policy 1.1.2

The City shall establish a pilot Green practices program with requirements and incentives for new construction, major renovation, land development or redevelopment that is certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition Inc. (FGBC), DEP Florida Green Lodge, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED); and/ or achieve an Energy Star rating.

Policy 1.1.3

The City shall pursue incentives for location of Green businesses within the community.

Policy 1.1.4

The City shall promote and encourage through redevelopment land development regulations clean industries such as tourism-related businesses.

Policy 1.1.5

The City shall develop a Green Building, Green Lodge and Green Development awards and promotions program. This awards and promotions program should include a "Green" page on the City website and partnership with the local Chamber, Tourist Development Council, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Pinellas County to be part of the County's Sustainable Quality Communities Initiative, a Countywide Green Lodging Tourism Campaign as well as promote a "Rebuilding to be a Coastal Green City" local Campaign.

Policy 1.1.6

The City shall consider participation in Cities for Climate Protection Campaign in support of Executive Order No.: 07-126, issued by the Governor of the State of Florida on July 13, 2007; and in partnership and support of a Resolution adopted by Pinellas County to become a national and state model for innovative and sustainable planning, economic development and Green design, by: (1) implementing strategies such as Livable Communities to increase pedestrian and bicycle travel to reduce auto-dependence; and (2) implement LEED and Energy Star standards for new buildings and major renovations.

Policy 1.1.7

The City shall pursue a partnership with local businesses in the Downtown Redevelopment District, Corey Area to initiate a Florida Main Street designation process and provide business grant assistance for façade improvements.

Policy 1.1.8

The City shall pursue the development of a disaster waste management and debris recycling plan.

Policy 1.1.9

The City shall implement a pilot incentive program to fast-track Green building construction by December, 2008.

Policy 1.1.10

The City shall offer incentives for the location and construction of affordable, Green, on-site workforce living accommodations in conjunction with large-scale temporary lodging uses.

Objective 1.2

Transform the City's development and permitting regulations into a Smart Growth and Quality Development Code, promoting flexibility, mixed use, incorporating economic and environmentally sustainable standards and pilot Green practices program incentives.

Policy 1.2.1

By 2012, determine a threshold and criteria for requiring a LEED certification standard, or an equivalent standard, in private design to be implemented through the LDC.

Policy 1.2.2

The City shall promote mixed use developments that reduce impacts on infrastructure and the environment.

Policy 1.2.3

The City shall identify and promote the use of native and drought tolerant landscape with particular emphasis on Florida-friendly landscaping techniques

including use of reclaimed water, and rain sensor irrigation systems to conserve water resources.

Policy 1.2.4

Regulate, maintain and reduce net impervious surfaces, with an emphasis on reducing large expanses of paved parking surfaces, wherever possible, to reduce urban heat and pollution and improve drainage.

Policy 1.2.5

Require energy efficient or solar lighting for all public improvements including LED traffic lights and pedestrian street lighting within the Community Redevelopment District; and strongly encourage energy efficient or solar lighting throughout the City for both the private and public sectors.

Policy 1.2.6

Advanced storm water controls and waterfront considerations to minimize and eliminate pollutant run-off into the intracoastal waterways shall be a priority.

Policy 1.2.7

Fountains and water features that promote water conservation methods and technologies shall be encouraged.

Policy 1.2.8

Entrance design features and art in public places that do not consume water shall be encouraged.

Policy 1.2.9

Low flow fixtures and high energy efficient rating construction materials, equipment and appliances shall be strongly encouraged and minimum standards shall be adopted in the LDC.

Policy 1.2.10

Environmentally integrated pest management practices that will contribute to the overall improvement of the environment shall be identified and encouraged.

Objective 1.3

The City's Land Development Code shall be amended to encourage implementation of transportation and alternative mobility and management strategies, including mixed use projects, that reduce dependence on automobiles, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and consumption of non-renewable energy sources.

Policy 1.3.1

Support and encourage public and private sector ride-share, vanpooling and shuttle service programs.

Policy 1.3.2

Encourage and facilitate mass transit ridership subsidies for employees.

Policy 1.3.3

Encourage alternative mobility options through safe, comfortable and continuous pedestrian and bicycle pathways linked to the downtown area, recreational facilities, activity and entertainment centers and public beach access points to reduce reliance on the auto.

Policy 1.3.4

The City shall develop and implement Land Development Standards which preserve and promote the continuance of the existing development pattern and architectural aesthetic of the Eighth Avenue commercial district in the Pass-a-Grille area of St. Pete Beach. Such standards may include Special Area Plans consistent with the requirements of the Pinellas County-Wide Plan as administered by the Pinellas Planning Council.

GOAL 2:

The City shall ensure that the residential character of the City of St. Pete Beach is maintained and protected while:

- ❖ Maximizing the potential for economic benefit resulting from the tourist trade and the enjoyment of natural and man-made resources by residents and visitors alike.
- ❖ Minimizing the threat to health, safety, and welfare posed by hazards, nuisances, incompatible land uses, and environmental degradation.
- ❖ Maintaining the community's recreation, open space and beaches.

Objective 2.1

The integrity and quality of life throughout the City, including existing residential neighborhoods, as well as core commercial and resort areas, will be maintained through the enforcement of the land development regulations and shall be encouraged to be improved, and for those properties experiencing blighting conditions such as deterioration, degradation, and distress shall be encouraged to redevelop through the use of land development regulations and other incentives, in accordance with the Future Land Use Element.

Policy 2.1.1

The following land use categories, including the stated residential densities and non-residential intensities of use standards, as administered through the land development regulations, shall be adopted for the City of St. Pete Beach:

- ❖ Residential Urban (RU), with a maximum residential density of 7.5 residential units per acre.

- ❖ Residential Low Medium (RLM), with a maximum residential density of 10.0 residential units per acre.
- ❖ Residential Medium (RM), with a maximum residential density of 15.0 residential units per acre.
- ❖ Residential High (RH), with a maximum residential density of 30.0 residential units per acre.
- ❖ Resort Facilities Medium (RFM), with a maximum residential density of 18.0 units per acre or 30.0 temporary lodging units per acre; non-residential uses shall not exceed neither a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.45 to 0.65 nor an impervious surface ratio (ISR) of 0.65 to 0.85.
- ❖ Residential/Office/Retail (R/O/R), with a maximum residential density of 18.0 units per acre or 30 temporary lodging units per acre; non-residential uses shall not exceed neither a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.20 to 0.40 nor an impervious surface ratio (ISR) of .65 to .85.
- ❖ Residential/Office General (R/OG), with a maximum residential density of 15 units per acre; non-residential uses shall not exceed neither a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.30 to 0.50 nor an impervious surface ratio (ISR) of 0.55 to 0.75.
- ❖ Resort Facilities Overlay (RFO), where the density of residential units shall not exceed the maximum number of dwelling units per acre determined by the underlying residential plan category temporary lodging units shall not exceed a ratio of ~~6.0~~ 1.67 temporary lodging units to the permitted number of underlying residential units; and non-residential uses shall not exceed neither the floor area ratio (FAR) nor the impervious surface ratio (ISR) of the underlying plan category.
- ❖ Commercial General (CG), where the density of residential units shall not exceed 24 units per acre; temporary lodging units shall not exceed 40 units per acre; non-residential units shall not exceed neither a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.35 to 0.55 nor an impervious surface ratio (ISR) of 0.70 to 0.85.
- ❖ Community Redevelopment District (CRD), where the densities and intensities shall be as determined within the Community Redevelopment District as specified in each designated character district pursuant to the provisions set forth in Special Area Designation – Community Redevelopment District section of this Future Land Use Element to encourage economic revitalization and redevelopment of properties and uses located within the CRD, with a particular emphasis on commercial, temporary lodging and mixed uses along the City’s main transportation corridors, adjacent to waterfront or located within major community activity centers.

- ❖ Community Redevelopment District - Eighth Avenue (CRD-EA), the following uses are proposed for the new Community Redevelopment District – Eighth Avenue (CRD-EA) land use classification:

Primary Uses - Residential; Office; Retail Commercial; Personal/Business Service; Commercial/Business Service; Temporary Lodging.

Secondary Uses - Residential equivalent; public/semi-public; ancillary non-residential; recreation/open space.

Density/Intensity Standards shall include the following:

- Density and intensity of use for commercial and residential components shall be inclusive, i.e. the same land area may be used to support both use types without pro-ration.
 - Residential use - Shall not exceed 24 dwelling units per acre.
 - Residential equivalent use - Shall not exceed an equivalent of 2.0 to 3.0 beds per permitted dwelling unit at 24 dwelling units per acre.
 - Non-residential use - Shall not exceed a floor area ratio (FAR) of 1.0 for single use commercial structures or 1.5 for mixed-use development, nor an impervious surface ratio (ISR) of .90. The standard for the purpose of establishing relative intensity and potential impacts shall be an FAR of .75 and an ISR of .75.
 - Transient accommodation use - Shall not exceed 50 units per acre.
 - Other standards shall include the following: Public/semi-public; ancillary non-residential use – shall not exceed a maximum area of three (3) acres. Any such use, alone or when added to existing contiguous like uses, which exceeds this threshold shall require a plan amendment which shall include such use and all contiguous like uses.
- ❖ Preservation (P), applied to the beaches seaward of the Florida Coastal Construction Control Line, Fuller Island and other environmentally significant natural resource areas; such designated areas shall not be developed except to provide beach access dune walkovers from adjacent developed properties under the provisions of the City's Beach Management Regulations.
 - ❖ Recreation/Open Space (R/OS), uses permitted in this category are limited to public and private open spaces, public/private parks, public recreation facilities and public beach or water access points; no use shall exceed neither a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.05 to 0.25 nor an impervious surface ratio (ISR) of 0.40 to 0.60.

- ❖ Institutional (I), density of residential units shall not exceed 12.5 units per acre; non-residential uses shall exceed neither a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.45 to 0.65 nor an impervious surface ratio (ISR) of 0.65 to 0.85; uses within this category are limited to the following:

Primary Uses - Public/private schools; Hospital; Medical clinic; Church, other religious institution; Social/public service agency; Child day care; Fraternal or civic organization; Municipal offices/public buildings; Public safety facility; Emergency medical service building.

Secondary Uses – Residential; Residential equivalent; Recreation/open space; Public/semi-public; Ancillary non-residential.

- ❖ Transportation/Utility (T/U), residential uses not permitted; non-residential uses shall not exceed neither a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.50 to 0.70 nor an impervious surface ratio of 0.70 to 0.90; uses within this category shall be limited to the following:

Primary Uses - Marina; Municipal water/wastewater facility; Public works garage/storage; Electric power substation; Telephone switching station.

Secondary Uses - Storage/warehouse; Recreation/open space; Public/semi-public; Ancillary non-residential.

Policy 2.1.2

The City shall, through the land development regulations, encourage a balanced land use mix providing a variety of housing styles, densities and open space.

Policy 2.1.3

The City shall, whenever possible, ensure that opportunities are available for all citizens to purchase or rent decent, safe and sanitary housing which they can afford, free from arbitrary discrimination because of race, sex, handicap, ethnic background, marital status or household composition.

Policy 2.1.4

The City will continue to encourage the construction of residential units suitable for families with children.

Policy 2.1.5

Through the enforcement of the land development regulations, existing residential areas shall be protected from the encroachment of incompatible uses; likewise, other land use areas shall be protected from the encroachment of incompatible residential uses.

Policy 2.1.6

The conservation, maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential areas shall be encouraged through provisions contained in the land development regulations and other applicable City codes.

Policy 2.1.7

Existing permanent residential dwellings and existing temporary lodging units shall be exempt from the density requirements.

Policy 2.1.8

All temporary lodging units shall be prohibited from conversion to permanent residential dwelling units that exceed the maximum permitted density and intensity standards applicable to the property.

Policy 2.1.9

All temporary lodging units shall be prohibited from seeking homestead exemption and home occupational licensing.

Policy 2.1.10

The land development regulations shall contain provisions which ensure that new residential areas are located and designed to protect life and property, as much as possible, from natural and man-made hazards such as flooding, excessive traffic, noxious odors, noise and deterioration of structures.

Policy 2.1.11

The land development regulations shall require buffering and open space within residential areas, as appropriate.

Policy 2.1.12

Consistent with this comprehensive plan, as amended, the standards and densities set forth herein will be maintained.

Policy 2.1.13

The land development regulations shall contain minimum buffering standards which will protect single-family residential uses from new abutting residential projects developed in excess of 15 units per acre and any new abutting non-residential projects. Such buffering regulations shall contain the following minimum standards:

- ❖ Construction of an ornamental wall sufficient in height according to the provisions of the land development regulations to provide for sound and aesthetic buffering;
- ❖ Minimum setback requirements;
- ❖ Minimum landscaping requirements sufficient to provide visually aesthetic shielding.

Policy 2.1.14

The City shall adopt land development regulations that encourage parcel assembly to remedy defective or inadequate street layout and parking facilities; improve traffic flow on roadways; faulty site design layout and inadequate buffering, open space and drainage in relation to size, adequacy, usefulness; unsanitary or unsafe conditions; deterioration of a site or other improvements; inadequate and outdated building patterns.

Objective 2.2

All developments, other than construction of one single-family or one two-family residence on a single lot, shall be permitted only through the site plan review process.

Policy 2.2.1

As administered through the land development regulations, multifamily residential and non-residential developments shall be required to undergo a site plan review process.

Policy 2.2.2

The site plan review provisions, as contained in the LDC shall, at a minimum, address the following:

- ❖ Allowance for a creative approach for development or redevelopment;
- ❖ A requirement that more open space, if practical, be provided than that called for by the strict application of the minimum requirements of the land development regulations;
- ❖ A harmonious development of the site with consideration given to the surrounding areas and community facilities, while providing for safe and efficient traffic circulation; and
- ❖ The establishment of procedures for the granting of increased structure height not to exceed 50 feet in all areas of the City excluding the Community Redevelopment District which establishes specific height standards by use within each character district; in exchange for increased open space and decreased amounts of impervious surfaces; and
- ❖ The repeal of variance procedures that would allow increased height above the maximum established in each character district located within the Special Area Designation - Community Redevelopment District shall be prohibited **subject to voter referendum approval, if required by the City Charter**; and
- ❖ Other provisions as deemed appropriate by the City in keeping with the intent of the comprehensive plan and land development regulations.

Objective 2.3

New commercial development shall be required to be compatible with environmental and economic resources through the enforcement of the land development regulations.

Policy 2.3.1

Within any mixed use development, as appropriate, proper separation and buffering between residential and non-residential land uses shall be maintained through the administration of the LDC.

Policy 2.3.2

Neighborhood commercial facilities shall be located so as to serve residential areas without disrupting the residential quality of the area.

Policy 2.3.3

In order to minimize incompatibilities when residential and non-residential land uses share a common boundary, buffering shall be required, as appropriate.

Policy 2.3.4

The land development regulations shall ensure that commercial land uses are located in a manner which ensures their compatibility with the type and scale of surrounding land uses and where existing or programmed public facilities shall not be overburdened.

Policy 2.3.5

The City shall encourage the maintenance of tourist lodging facilities in keeping with the character of the community.

Policy 2.3.6

The conversion or development of temporary lodging units for use as permanent residential dwellings shall be prohibited within the Resort Facilities Medium and Resort Facilities High land use categories.

Policy 2.3.7

The City shall, through the LDC, ensure that commercial areas are located and designed so as to enhance safety by providing adequate off-street parking and loading areas and by separating pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Policy 2.3.8

Through administration of the LDC, strip commercial development that compounds traffic and land use conflicts shall be strongly discouraged.

Policy 2.3.9

The City, through administration of the LDC and in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation and Pinellas County, shall minimize the amount of direct access onto major roads by controlling the number and location of curb cuts.

Objective 2.4

Consistent with this comprehensive plan, as amended, the City of St. Pete Beach shall enhance and protect the City's character through the encouragement of redevelopment which ensures an orderly and aesthetic mixture of land uses.

Policy 2.4.1

The City shall, through administration of the LDC, encourage the redevelopment or rehabilitation of existing non-residential areas and uses.

Policy 2.4.2

The City shall, through administration of the LDC, encourage the adaptive re-use or mixed use redevelopment incentives of no longer viable commercial properties, including the implementation of Community Redevelopment Districts, where appropriate.

Policy 2.4.3

The City shall, while emphasizing residential uses in residential neighborhoods, encourage the creative redevelopment of non-viable properties by allowing for a mixture of compatible residential and non-residential uses within a single development site.

Policy 2.4.4

In order to ensure the continued maintenance of its beach residential character, the City, through administration of its LDC shall encourage the rehabilitation and/or revitalization of existing residential structures.

Policy 2.4.5

In order to encourage economic redevelopment, the City, through its authority as a Community Redevelopment Agency that has been delegated to the City by Resolution 06-191 approved by Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, in accordance with to Part III Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, shall actively pursue and shall take all reasonable measures to seek adoption and approval of a Ch. 163 Community Redevelopment Plan for the area approved by the County as a community redevelopment area, including implementation and funding of a Redevelopment Trust Fund to funding capital improvements, programs and programs approved as part of a Community Redevelopment Area Plan.

Objective 2.5

Existing land uses or structures which are either incompatible or inconsistent with the adopted Future Land Use Element shall be deemed non-conforming as of the effective date of this comprehensive plan and be encouraged to be eliminated through redevelopment of such uses or structures; however, existing residential and temporary lodging use densities and intensities shall be grandfathered except when abandoned voluntarily as defined by the LDC.

Policy 2.5.1

Those residential uses and structures existing as of the effective date of this comprehensive plan, as amended, which were built and were conforming prior to such adoption, and which are hereby rendered non-conforming, shall be considered to be grandfathered, as defined in the LDC.

Policy 2.5.2

Those temporary lodging uses and structures existing as of the effective date of this Comprehensive Plan, as amended, which were built prior to such adoption, and which are hereby rendered non-conforming, shall be considered to be grandfathered, as defined in the LDC.

Objective 2.6

As of the effective date of this comprehensive plan, as amended, development activities shall be required to ensure the protection of historic and architecturally significant structures and resources.

Policy 2.6.1

As appropriate, the City shall encourage owners of historic and architecturally significant structures to seek designation of their properties as historic sites by the federal government, state of Florida or by the City's Aesthetic and Historic Review Board and City Commission.

Policy 2.6.2

The City shall consider adoption of incentives to encourage preservation and enhancement of historic or architecturally significant structures and resources.

Policy 2.6.3

The City shall adopt procedures to be incorporated into the LDC which ensures that new development does not adversely impact designated historic or architecturally significant structures and resources.

Policy 2.6.4

Prior to approving any plans for redevelopment in the Community Redevelopment District, the property proposed for redevelopment shall be reviewed under Federal and State historic guidelines to determine whether the existing buildings(s) have historical significance and determine what measures will be taken to mitigate the impacts of redevelopment on the qualified historic resources.

Objective 2.7

Consistent with this comprehensive plan, as amended, development activities shall be regulated to ensure the protection of natural resources.

Policy 2.7.1

The City shall ensure that land is developed in such a manner as to protect natural resources through encouraging the planting of native vegetation, restoration of dunes, beach re-nourishment, and regulating construction along the Coastal Construction Control line.

Policy 2.7.2

Unique and/or irreplaceable natural resources such as the City's beaches, shores, dunes and mangroves shall be protected from the adverse effects of development. Sand dunes and mangroves may not be disturbed during development and construction activities.

Policy 2.7.3

Development review criteria shall include soil suitability.

Policy 2.7.4

Species of flora and fauna listed in the Coastal and Conservation Element of this comprehensive plan as endangered, threatened or species of special concern, as defined by federal law or Florida statutes, shall not be removed during development or redevelopment processes.

Policy 2.7.5

Recreational development shall be compatible with the environment and shall be subject to performance standards adopted in the land development regulations.

Policy 2.7.6

As administered through the LDC, the clearing of trees and wetland vegetation shall be prohibited prior to the issuance of a permit by the City.

Policy 2.7.7

Through the administration of the LDC coastal vegetative communities, coastal wildlife habitats and dune systems shall be protected from the adverse effects of development. Restoration of dune systems shall be administered through the City's Beach Management Regulations.

Policy 2.7.8

Through the administration of the LDC, tidal flushing and circulation patterns shall not be significantly altered by development activities.

Policy 2.7.9

The City shall ensure that natural water courses are protected in their natural state and are not subject to alteration. Activities that alter the flow of a watercourse that are expressly prohibited include: Damming, diking, or adding fill for the production of additional land for development purposes.

Policy 2.7.10

As administered through the LDC, land use proposals which could potentially increase point-source air and water pollution shall not be permitted, and Green building and site design standards, strategies, practices and technologies that reduce air and water pollution shall be adopted and implemented in the LDC.

Policy 2.7.11

Dredge and fill activities shall be conducted only when necessary, as determined after review and comment by the appropriate governmental agencies and interested citizens, and in a manner least harmful to the environment.

Policy 2.7.12

The mangrove island located in Little McPherson Bayou shall be designated as a preservation area on the Future Land Use Map.

Policy 2.7.13

The City shall cooperate with Pinellas County, regional and state efforts to monitor and improve the water quality of Boca Ciega Bay.

Policy 2.7.14

The City's limited non-potable water resources shall be conserved and protected from depletion or over-development through the implementation of water conservation site design techniques including Florida Friendly and waterwise landscapes through the administration of the Future Land Use Map and Future Land Use Element Policies.

Objective 2.8

Consistent with this comprehensive plan, as amended, the City shall seek to improve the storm water drainage system located within its municipal boundaries.

Policy 2.8.1

The City shall ensure that surface cover vegetation loss during construction is minimized and/or replaced to reduce erosion and flooding. A minimum of 10% of the site shall be covered with vegetation post-construction.

Policy 2.8.2

The City shall require that the developer/owner of any new development or redevelopment site to manage storm water runoff in a manner such that post-development runoff rates, volumes and pollutant loads do not exceed pre-development conditions.

Policy 2.8.3

Where feasible finished grades shall be designed to direct water flows along natural drainage courses and through natural terrain.

Policy 2.8.4

Impervious surfaces shall be limited through the application of lot coverage standards in the Future Land Use Element.

Policy 2.8.5

The City shall require that future drainage out-falls associated with both new development and redevelopment are designed to prevent the direct discharge of runoff into either Boca Ciega Bay or the Gulf of Mexico.

Policy 2.8.6

The City shall employ stormwater best management practices, such as the use of the use of vegetated swales, rain barrels, rain gardens, pervious parking areas, underground ex-filtration or sand filtration and catchments' systems where the lack of space prohibits the use of retention or detention ponds.

Objective 2.9

Consistent with this comprehensive plan, as amended, level of service standards set forth in this plan will not be degraded.

Policy 2.9.1

As administered by the land development regulations, the City of St. Pete Beach shall ensure that all development and redevelopment taking place within its municipal boundaries does not result in a reduction of the level of service requirements established and adopted in this comprehensive plan.

Policy 2.9.2

Recognizing the limitations of the potable water supply available to serve this community, the City shall adopt by reference those applicable provisions of water conservation ordinances which may be adopted by Pinellas County or recommended by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and in accordance with Florida Green Local Government standards.

Policy 2.9.3

The development of residential and commercial land shall be timed and staged in conjunction with provision of supporting community facilities, such as streets, utilities, police and fire protection, emergency medical service, public schools.

Policy 2.9.4

The City shall work with the appropriate governmental agencies in an attempt to avoid any unnecessary conflicts between highway traffic and Intracoastal Waterway traffic.

Policy 2.9.5

Public facilities and utilities shall be located so as to maximize the efficiency of services provided; to minimize their cost; and to minimize their adverse impacts on the natural environment.

Policy 2.9.6

Consistent with this Comprehensive Plan, as amended, all permits for future development and redevelopment activities shall be issued only if public facilities necessary to meet the level of service standards adopted pursuant to this comprehensive plan are available concurrent with the impacts of the development.

Objective 2.10

The City shall continue to ensure the availability of suitable land for utility facilities necessary to support proposed development.

Policy 2.10.1

As an ongoing policy, the City shall assure that adequate land is available for the maintenance of those public utility facilities necessary to support current and proposed development.

Policy 2.10.2

As an ongoing policy, the City will continue to protect existing rights-of-way and easements.

Objective 2.11

Consistent with this comprehensive plan, the City shall continue to maintain the community's open space and promote greater connectivity through alternative mobility options.

Policy 2.11.1

Those lands lying between the mean high water line and the Florida Coastal Construction Control Line are recognized as protected open spaces, as are any public lands which lie between the mean high water line and the water's edge.

Policy 2.11.2

Where feasible, preservation areas, parks, and other components of the City's open-space system shall be linked by bike paths, jogging trails, and/or pedestrian pathways.

Policy 2.11.3

The City shall continue to administer the land development regulations in a manner aimed at preserving the access to and view of the beach and other recreational facilities for all residents of and visitors to of this community.

Policy 2.11.4

The regulation of recreational uses of waterways and water access areas shall be consistent with sound waterway management.

Policy 2.11.5

The City shall work with Pinellas County and other appropriate governmental agencies to ensure and maintain public beach access.

Objective 2.12

The City shall continue to improve communication, cooperation, and coordination with area local governments, districts and agencies.

Policy 2.12.1

The City of St. Pete Beach will continue to ensure that development and redevelopment projects do not adversely impact neighboring governmental jurisdictions including the cities of Treasure Island, St. Petersburg, South Pasadena and Pinellas County by including these communities in the site plan review process, where applicable.

Policy 2.12.2

Recognizing that the impacts of development extend beyond the limits of the community, the City shall ensure that development permits are consistent with the objectives of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and state and federal agencies by including these agencies in the site plan review process, when appropriate.

Objective 2.13

The City shall promote the preservation and redevelopment of temporary lodging uses.

Policy 2.13.1

The City shall implement an on-going process of assessing the status of the City's temporary lodging unit inventory through review of zoning and permitting activities.

Policy 2.13.2

The City shall, where appropriate, establish a Community Redevelopment District with standards that facilitate re-investment in temporary lodging/ temporary lodging use development on the west side of Gulf Boulevard, within the Town Center Core as small bed and breakfast inns, within the Upham Beach area where the existing small motels are located, and at either end of Corey Avenue as a catalytic waterfront project that may also include marina facilities.

Policy 2.13.3

The City shall adopt provisions in its LDC which are designed to ensure the continued operation of all temporary lodging/ temporary lodging uses with mandated operational characteristics as temporary lodging facilities principally serving tourists and business travelers, and providing for guest amenities, without regard to ownership scheme as in accordance with State law. Such operational provisions shall include limitations on the continuous duration of guest stays, and if owned as a resort condominium, an additional limitation on the annual cumulative duration of owner stays.

Policy 2.13.4

The definition of transient occupancy contained in Division 2 of the LDC shall be renamed to “Temporary Occupancy” consistent with Countywide Future Land Use Plan and Rules recently adopted and redefined for temporary lodging uses and temporary lodging units located in the Community Redevelopment District in support of Objective 2.13 and Policy 2.13.4 above:

In addition, consistent with the recent adoption of revised terminology by Pinellas County, the City shall amend its LDC to rename the following terms defined in the LDC:

“Transient Accommodation Use” shall be renamed “Temporary Lodging Use.”

“Transient Accommodation Unit” shall be renamed “Temporary Lodging Unit.”

GOAL 3:

The promoting of sound coastal management shall be encouraged to ensure that maximum long-term benefits are attained in the use of the coastal zone by the residents of and visitors to the City of St. Pete Beach.

Objective 3.1

The City shall continue to participate with the City of Treasure Island and Pinellas County, and appropriate state and federal agencies in the implementation of a coastal management plan.

Policy 3.1.1

Through the on-going enforcement of the City’s Beach Management Regulations, beach areas shall be protected and restored to their natural state to the fullest extent possible, while only encouraging beach re-nourishment projects that are in the overall public interest.

Policy 3.1.2

The land development regulations shall ensure that all development along the coastline is in accordance with the Coastal Construction Control Line as established by the State of Florida, City of St. Pete Beach, or other appropriate governmental agencies.

~~Policy 3.1.3~~

~~The City of St. Pete Beach will re-evaluate its Coastal Construction Control Line from time to time in order to measure its effectiveness.~~

Policy 3.1.3

The Beach Management Regulations shall ensure that all development or any other activities which disturb the coastal dune system are prohibited except when a proper permit has been issued that will include provisions to ensure that the dune system is maintained through restoration and enhancement.

Policy 3.1.4

The Beach Management Regulations shall be enforced to ensure the restoration and maintenance of the coastal dune system on new developments or redevelopment projects.

Policy 3.1.5

Sensitive coastal resources shall be protected, through provisions contained in the land development regulations, from degradation and erosion resulting from improper development practices and recreational misuse.

Policy 3.1.6

Beach stabilization projects, using appropriate vegetation as the stabilizing medium, shall be incorporated into development plans, where appropriate.

Policy 3.1.7

The land development regulations shall include provisions whereby sand dunes are protected and enhanced, and native vegetation shall be planted to stabilize shorelines and protect upland areas from flooding hazards.

Policy 3.1.8

The City shall protect the public health, safety and welfare by requiring that development in high risk areas, such as the hurricane velocity zone, meets all current construction standards and by fully supporting Coastal Construction Zone limitations.

Objective 3.2

Recognizing its location within a Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA), the City shall ensure that future development and redevelopment projects are built in accordance with the most recent hazard mitigation techniques and building materials.

Policy 3.2.1

All future development proposals shall be analyzed based upon existing and future interagency hazard mitigation reports.

Policy 3.2.2

In as much as is practical, the City of St. Pete Beach shall encourage property owners to retrofit hazard mitigation techniques and building materials into existing structures and shall require such techniques and materials for all major renovation construction projects.

Policy 3.2.3

All new temporary lodging facilities within the City shall be planned, designed, and constructed to meet or exceed the minimum wind-loading and structural requirements of the Florida and Local Building Code in effect at the time of permitting. All new construction shall comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Flood Insurance Program requirements for protection from and mitigation of flood hazards.

Objective 3.3

The City shall assure that future developments are compatible with the topography, soil conditions and the availability of facilities and services.

Policy 3.3.1

The City shall require elevation certificates for all new development proposals.

Policy 3.3.2

The City shall require that building foundations be designed appropriately for the soil conditions of the building site.

Policy 3.3.3

The City shall permit no new developments where the facilities and services are not available or planned to be available in accordance with the Concurrency Management System adopted in 1992 as Chapter 102, St. Pete Beach Code of Ordinances, as amended.

GOAL 4:

The City, in cooperation with Pinellas County and neighboring communities, shall establish an effective and workable hurricane evacuation plan.

Objective 4.1

Recognizing its vulnerability to the effects of tropical storms, the City shall maintain an up-to-date hurricane evacuation plan.

Policy 4.1.1

Because the entire community is located within the identified Coastal High Hazard Area, as redefined by Rule 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code, the City shall, to the extent practical, limit public expenditures that subsidize development or redevelopment consistent with the Future Land Use Map as amended to reflect the revised the definition of the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) to be the area below the elevation of the category 1 storm surge line as established by the SLOSH model. Ch. 2006-68, LOF; Section 163.3178(2)(h), Fla. Stat. except for the following:

- ❖ The expenditure for the maintenance, repair or replacement of existing facilities.
- ❖ The expenditure for restoration or enhancement of natural resources or public access.
- ❖ The expenditure needed to address an existing deficiency identified in this plan.
- ❖ The expenditure for the retrofitting of storm water management facilities for water quality enhancement of storm water runoff.

- ❖ The expenditure for the development or improvement of public roads and bridges identified in the Transportation Element or Capital Improvements Element of this plan.
- ❖ The expenditure for a public facility of overriding public interest to ensure public health and safety.

Policy 4.1.2

The Hurricane Evacuation Plan will set forth hurricane clearance times which will either be maintained or reduced. The City should adopt levels of service for both evacuation times to shelter and out-of-county for a Category 5 storm event.

Policy 4.1.3

The risk of exposure of human life and public and private property to natural disasters shall be reduced through preparedness planning and implementation of hazard mitigation measures. The City should coordinate with Pinellas County and the TBRPC to develop mitigation strategies including possibly the adoption of a Mitigation Fee.

Policy 4.1.4

The City shall coordinate plans for evacuation of coastal area populations with appropriate local or regional hurricane evacuation plans. The City should adopt levels of service for both evacuation times to shelter and out-of-county for a Category 5 storm event.

Policy 4.1.5

All new temporary lodging uses developed within the City shall prepare and file a Hurricane Closure and Evacuation Plan with the City and with the County's Director of Emergency Management at the time of building permit that complies with all applicable local and County emergency management procedures and requirements.

Policy 4.1.6

The City should determine how to address areas within its boundaries that are now no longer part of the CHHA in order to provide protection for these isolated areas as well.

GOAL 5:

The LDC shall be amended and adopted to implement the goals, objectives and policies of this comprehensive plan, as amended.

Objective 5.1

Recognizing that the City of St. Pete Beach is located on a barrier island, future growth and development shall be managed through the preparation, adoption, implementation and enforcement of land development regulations consistent with this adopted Comprehensive Plan, as amended, in accordance with applicable timeframes established herein or State law, whichever is more restrictive.

Policy 5.1.1

The City shall adopt and implement land development regulations which recognize the limitations of development on a barrier island, including its location in the 100-year flood plain, its vulnerability to tropical storms, and its topography and soil conditions.

Policy 5.1.2

The City shall adopt and implement land development regulations that contain specific and detailed provisions required to implement this comprehensive plan, as amended, which, at a minimum shall:

- ❖ Regulate the subdivision of land;
- ❖ Protect the limited amount of marine wetlands remaining in the community and those lands designated as Preservation on the Future Land Use Map;
- ❖ Regulate signs;
- ❖ Ensure that all future development is consistent with Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Flood Insurance Program regulations;
- ❖ Ensure that all future development is consistent with any coastal construction control regulations as may be adopted and/or amended by the State of Florida, Pinellas County, or the City of St. Pete Beach;
- ❖ Ensure the compatibility of adjacent land uses by requiring adequate and appropriate buffering between potentially incompatible uses;
- ❖ Ensure that development permits are issued only when it has been documented that such development is consistent with the level of service standards for the affected public facilities adopted by this comprehensive plan;
- ❖ Provide for improved drainage and storm water management by requiring compliance with the minimum criteria established by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the City of St. Pete Beach Drainage Ordinance, the regulations of other appropriate governmental agencies and the Pinellas County Master Drainage Plan;
- ❖ Provide requirements for the provision of open space safe and convenient on-site traffic flow and parking requirements and encourage share access driveways, internal connectivity between compatible adjacent parcels to reduce curb cuts to reduce vehicular conflict with pedestrians and bicycles;
- ❖ Encourage the use of Waterwise Florida Landscapes and drought-tolerant vegetation, reclaimed water and rain sensor irrigation systems in the landscaping of multifamily and commercial developments;

- ❖ Provide regulations requiring the control of erosion and storm water or pollutant runoff from construction sites;
- ❖ Encourage land development which highlights scenic amenities and ensures public access to the waterfront;
- ❖ Adopt Green building and site design standards and encourage new construction and major renovation to utilize Green standards through incentive programs;
- ❖ Provide regulations and design standards that require internal and external pedestrian and bicycle pathway linkages to create a safe alternative mobility network throughout the City; and
- ❖ Provide regulations that promote mass transit use.

Policy 5.1.3

The City shall adopt land development regulations that shall prohibit the re-platting of existing recorded platted lots for the purpose of increasing the development density within existing single-family residential areas.

Policy 5.1.4

The City shall implement Community Redevelopment Districts pursuant to Part III Chapter 163, Florida Statutes in areas that meet the statutory requirements of blighted conditions and contain a substantial number of the following conditions: defective or inadequate street layout parking facilities, roadways, bridges, or public transportation facilities; faulty layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility and usefulness; unsanitary or unsafe conditions; deterioration of site or other improvements; inadequate and outdated building patterns.

Policy 5.1.5

Land development regulations shall be adopted which implement the provisions of the Future Land Use Element policies within the mandatory timeframes specified herein or pursuant to State law, whichever is more restrictive.

GOAL 6:

Full compliance with Chapter 88-464, Laws of Florida, as amended, by participating in the Countywide planning process through representation on and coordination with the Pinellas Planning Council and by ensuring consistency between the City and Countywide comprehensive plans.

Objective 6.1

The Future Land Use Element of the City of St. Pete Beach Comprehensive Plan shall be consistent with the Countywide Future Land Use Plan and Rules.

Policy 6.1.1

Through continued maintenance of the Future Land Use Element, the City shall maintain consistency with the Countywide Future Land Use Plan and Rules by:

- ❖ Identifying any inconsistencies between the future land use element and plan maps of the City of St. Pete Beach and the Countywide Future Land Use Plan and Rules.
- ❖ Processing for action by the Pinellas Planning Council and the Board of County Commissioners, acting in their capacity as the Countywide Planning Authority, all land use plan amendments required to reconcile outstanding inconsistencies between the respective land use plans.

Special Designation – Community Redevelopment District (CRD)

Introduction & Overview

St. Pete Beach has experienced very little meaningful investment or reinvestment in its core resort and commercial areas during the past 30 years. The lack of reinvestment can primarily be attributed to an outdated regulatory scheme and development patterns that no longer support the needs of residents or visitors, and further, is not environmentally sustainable. Over time in the City's history, the resident population has become more permanent and less seasonal, which requires a different approach to the design of the public realm. With the exception of new residential construction, most of the core resort and commercial areas consist primarily of older structures that fail to comply with current building and safety codes, flood protection and management regulations, and environmental regulations, as well as modern open space and design standards. There is a substantial need to improve the function of the public realm – streets, sidewalks, public facilities and off-street parking – in terms of safety, environmental and aesthetic design to create a quality sustainable community for residents and visitors alike.

In the past, in other aging communities similar to St. Pete Beach, a major catalytic project would be used to stimulate private investment. St. Pete Beach undertook one such project recently when it completed its Community Center in July, 2007. However, both experience and reality demonstrate that economic vitality and reinvestment in an aging community does not always follow a major public investment if the regulatory scheme is not in sync with redevelopment market conditions. In those instances, the regulatory scheme needs to be changed to encourage the type of redevelopment desired by a community instead of allowing the old scheme that facilitates or allows undesirable redevelopment or no reinvestment at all. In most revitalization efforts, one or more catalytic projects must be pioneers in the market to lead the way to overall reinvestment in a community that raises the standard of quality for the entire community.

Much of the obsolescence of St. Pete Beach is attributable to an obsolete regulatory scheme that discourages and impedes the redevelopment of resort facilities with a full range of on-site amenities that compare with other destination resorts in Florida and other markets with which St. Pete Beach competes. The decline and attrition of existing resorts, boutique hotels and mom & pop motels has also been a result of a booming residential condominium market for many years until March, 2006 when it appears all types of reinvestment slowed or stopped altogether. However, it is only a matter of time before the residential condominium market returns to continue its march down our beaches as it slowly replaces aging hotels and motels, unless a new regulatory scheme is put in place to ensure the economic viability of resort facilities.

This slow and steady decline in the number and quality of temporary lodging units is also reflected in the decline and attrition of local businesses on Gulf Boulevard and within the traditional historic shopping district located on Corey Avenue which serve residents and visitors but are primarily supported by tourists. In addition, the existing main boulevard has narrow, poorly maintained sidewalks, virtually no landscaping, substandard lighting, inadequate and substandard bike lanes, inadequate and too few pedestrian crosswalks, too many curb cuts, or curb cuts that are too wide with a curb cut approximately every 15 feet. These conditions leave the pedestrian and bicyclist feeling unsafe and unprotected from passing cars. The character of Gulf Boulevard in terms of both safety and aesthetics, is not only a deterrent to reinvestment, it lacks almost all of the amenities and improvements of a quality livable community.

A. Definitions

The definitions set forth below are terms used in the Community Redevelopment Plan and this Future Land Use Plan amendment that establishes a Community Redevelopment District containing two major redevelopment districts and eleven character districts.

- 1) **Base Flood Elevation** - as used herein means that elevation above grade level established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and implemented by State, County and local laws, codes and ordinances, above which height for a building is measured.
- 2) **City** – the municipality of St. Pete Beach.
- 3) **City Commission** – the duly elected governing municipal body of officials for the City of St. Pete Beach.
- 4) **Character District** – within the context of this Community Redevelopment Plan means one of eleven sub-districts or sub-areas that together form the Community Redevelopment District as a whole. Each of these sub-districts is called a “character district” because each of these areas share a common character that needs to be revitalized, enhanced or modified to achieve the community goals of quality residential living complemented by resorts and supported by a tourist-based economy. Each character district has its own unique mini-master plan that will fit into the larger framework established within one of two core redevelopment Districts – either the Downtown Core or the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District - and ultimately support the overall goals and objectives of the Community Redevelopment District as a whole. For example, the character of the Town Center Core District emphasizes pedestrian mobility over vehicular mobility and provides neighborhood and government services in a smaller-scale village-like atmosphere. This “character” is a re-creation of historical main streets that provided a core area where people gathered in a community to go to City Hall or the Post office, work, shop, dine, play and live.
- 5) **Comprehensive Plan** – the plan required by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, to manage development and redevelopment within the City limits in a manner that is consistent with County and State policies, provides for intergovernmental coordination, provides for the uses of land, coordinates the timing and provision of adequate infrastructure systems and facilities, establishes environmental, conservation, recreation and open space policies, and establishes housing policies that ensures among other things safety, density varieties, historic preservation and affordable housing mitigation. *The Comprehensive Plan contains eight elements that must be consistent with each other in achieving the overall goals, policies and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan, including the following elements: (1) Future Land Use; (2) Capital Improvements Plan; (3) Coastal / Conservation; (4) Housing; (5) Transportation; (6) Infrastructure; (7) Recreation & Open Space; and (8) Intergovernmental Coordination.*

- 6) **Community Redevelopment District** -- within the context of this Community Redevelopment Plan is a 248.25 acre core area of the City representing about 20% of the City's total land area that shares a common goal of revitalizing primarily resort and commercial areas of the City that have seen little or no reinvestment in the past 30 years and contain a substantial number of properties that are not designed to current public safety, environmental, aesthetic or market standards. It is divided into two core sub-areas that share the overall need and goal of revitalization but also have distinct character and district objectives as a result. For example, the Downtown Redevelopment District focuses on creating a traditional downtown core area that provides traditional community services provided on a smaller scale that emphasize a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment where people live, play and work which is surrounded by residential neighborhoods that are within walking distance and buffered from commercial intrusion. In comparison, the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District is a core resort and shopping destination for both residents and visitors that is more reliant on vehicular mobility with a focus on preserving and revitalizing the heritage of St. Pete Beach as a resort destination with Gulf beach access for residents and visitors alike that respects the quality residential living located primarily to the east on the intracoastal waterways.
- 7) **Density** - means the number of residential or temporary units allowed per acre of developable land. For example: If 15 units per acre is the density allowed on a two acre parcel of land, a total of 30 units are permitted.
- 8) **Development** - means the carrying out of any building activity having the effect of the development of land.
- 9) **Development Site/Building Site** - an area of land or contiguous areas of land assembled or combined for a unified development, for the purposes of calculating density and intensity.
- 10) **Height** - means the vertical distance measured from the minimum base flood elevation to the highest point of a flat roof, to the deck of a mansard roof or to the average height between the plate and the ridge of gable or hipped roofs, not including spires, belfries, cupolas, personal television antennae, water tanks, ventilators, chimneys, antennas, elevator shafts, mechanical rooms or other non-habitable areas. Such non-habitable architectural or mechanical features shall not extend more than ten feet above the eave line of a gable, mansard or hipped roof or the highest point of a flat roof, not including a parapet.
- 11) **Intensity** - refers to a standard of measurement such as floor area ratio and/ or impervious surface ratio.

- 12) **Floor Area Ratio (FAR)** - means the total amount of gross building square footage on a building site in relation to the total square footage of the building site, , expressed as a ratio. For example: a one acre parcel with a 1.0 floor area ratio equals 43,560 square feet of building space.
- 13) **Future Land Use Element** - is one element out of eight elements that comprise the City's Comprehensive Plan. It establishes the goals, objectives and policies for the use of land to manage future growth and redevelopment in accordance with the City's vision for its future. The Future Land Use Element establishes both the Future Land Use Plan and the Future Land Use Map.
 - a. The Future Land Use Plan defines and describes the land use plan categories, establishes the goals, objectives and policies, designates primary and secondary uses permitted in each land use plan category, and establishes density and intensity standards. In addition in this plan amendment, height standards are established that shall not be exceeded ~~except by voter referendum approval, if required by the City Charter.~~
 - b. The Future Land Use Map is a graphic depiction of the location and boundaries of each of the land use designations including the Community Redevelopment District (CRD) and each character district within the CRD.
- 14) **Housing Element** - is one element out of eight elements that comprise the City's Comprehensive Plan. It establishes the goals, objectives and policies that strive to provide a variety of housing types to serve permanent and seasonal residents.
- 15) **Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR)** - means the measurement in square footage of a building site covered by hard-surfaced area that prevents the absorption of water into the ground divided by the gross square footage of the building site , excluding land Gulf ward of the Florida Coastal Construction Control Line, expressed as a ratio. For example: if the plan requires a maximum 0.70 impervious surface ratio (ISR) that means that at least 30% of the parcel must be landscaped or otherwise maintained as open space that allows water to penetrate the ground surface (i.e., grass, sand, gravel). ISR shall be calculated on the basis of those portions of the site which are landward of the Florida Coastal Construction Control Line.
- 16) **Infrastructure Systems and Facilities** - as used herein means sanitary sewer, solid waste, potable water, reclaimed water, storm water drainage road systems, recreation, and school facilities.
- 17) **Land Development Code (LDC)** - means ordinances and regulations enacted by the City of St. Pete Beach City Commission ~~or by voter referendum as required by City Charter~~ that regulates any aspect of development.

- 18) **Mixed Use Development** - as used herein means a development on a building site that may combine residential, temporary lodging commercial and/or office uses and may contain one or more buildings. Specific limitations regarding the combination of the types of uses, minimum parcel sizes as well as density and intensity of mixed use development is established in each character district where permitted.
- 19) **Multi-family Residential Use** - means development that contains a single building with three or more residential dwelling units that may be eligible for homestead status, shall not be occupied on a temporary basis and is intended to be occupied as a permanent residential home. Multi-family residential uses may have a fee-simple ownership scheme such as a town-home or may have a residential condominium ownership scheme.
- 20) **Primary Uses** - A principal use identified under the use characteristics of each category. These categories of uses are those which the category is primarily designed to accommodate.
- 21) **Redevelopment** - means the conversion, relocation, reconstruction, structural alteration or enlargement of any existing building and/or use.
- 22) **Resort Condominium** - also more recently referred in the market and media as a “Condominium Hotel” shall mean any unit or group of units in a condominium, cooperative or vacation ownership, that is designed, operated and used for temporary lodging use and is used for temporary occupancy.
- 23) **Secondary Uses** - A secondary use, identified under the use characteristics of each category. These categories of uses are those which the category is designed to accommodate as a secondary priority.
- 24) **Temporary Lodging Unit** means an individual unit or suite of rooms with a temporary lodging use designed and offered for temporary occupancy. These temporary lodging units shall not be eligible for homestead status and shall not be occupied or function as a permanent residential dwelling and shall not qualify or be used for home occupational licensing.
- 25) **Temporary Lodging Use** - means a property that has an existing or permitted structure containing one or more temporary lodging units. A Temporary Lodging Use shall be further classified herein as required by the LDC as a hotel, motel, bed & breakfast inn, or resort condominium. In determining whether a property is developed as a temporary lodging use containing temporary lodging units intended for temporary occupancy, such determination shall be made without regard to form of ownership of the property or unit. A temporary lodging use may include accessory uses such as recreational facilities, restaurants, bars, personal service uses, retail uses, meeting spaces, fitness centers, spa facilities, parking structures, workforce living accommodations and other ancillary uses commonly associated with temporary lodging uses.

- 26) **Temporary Occupancy** - for purposes of temporary lodging use as used in the Community Redevelopment District shall mean occupancy of a temporary lodging unit that is offered, advertised and occupied on a temporary basis for thirty (30) consecutive days or less for temporary lodging guests and no more than thirty (30) days cumulatively on an annual basis for a resort condominium unit owner. These occupancy and operational limitations shall apply to all temporary lodging uses permitted within the Community Redevelopment District.
- 27) **Vacation of Right-of-Way** - means the transfer of all or a portion of public right-of-way to private ownership of a contiguous parcel of land.

B. Community Redevelopment District

General Provisions and Maps

(a) **Geographic Location.** This Future Land Use Plan and Map Amendment contains a Special Designation named the Community Redevelopment District (CRD) that is an area containing approximately 248.25 acres or approximately 20% of the total land area of the City. The Community Redevelopment District is shown on Map 1 and includes two major redevelopment areas (shown on Maps 2 and 3) as follows:

1. Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District; and
2. Downtown Redevelopment District.

There are a combined total of eleven designated character districts within the Community Redevelopment District as a whole, including: four (4) character districts in the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District; and seven (7) character districts in the Downtown Redevelopment District as follows:

a. *The overall Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District boundary is shown on ~~Map 10 and on~~ Map 2, the following character districts within this Redevelopment District are shown:*

- 1) Large Resort District
- 2) Boutique Hotel/Condo District
- 3) Activity Center District
- 4) Bayou Residential District

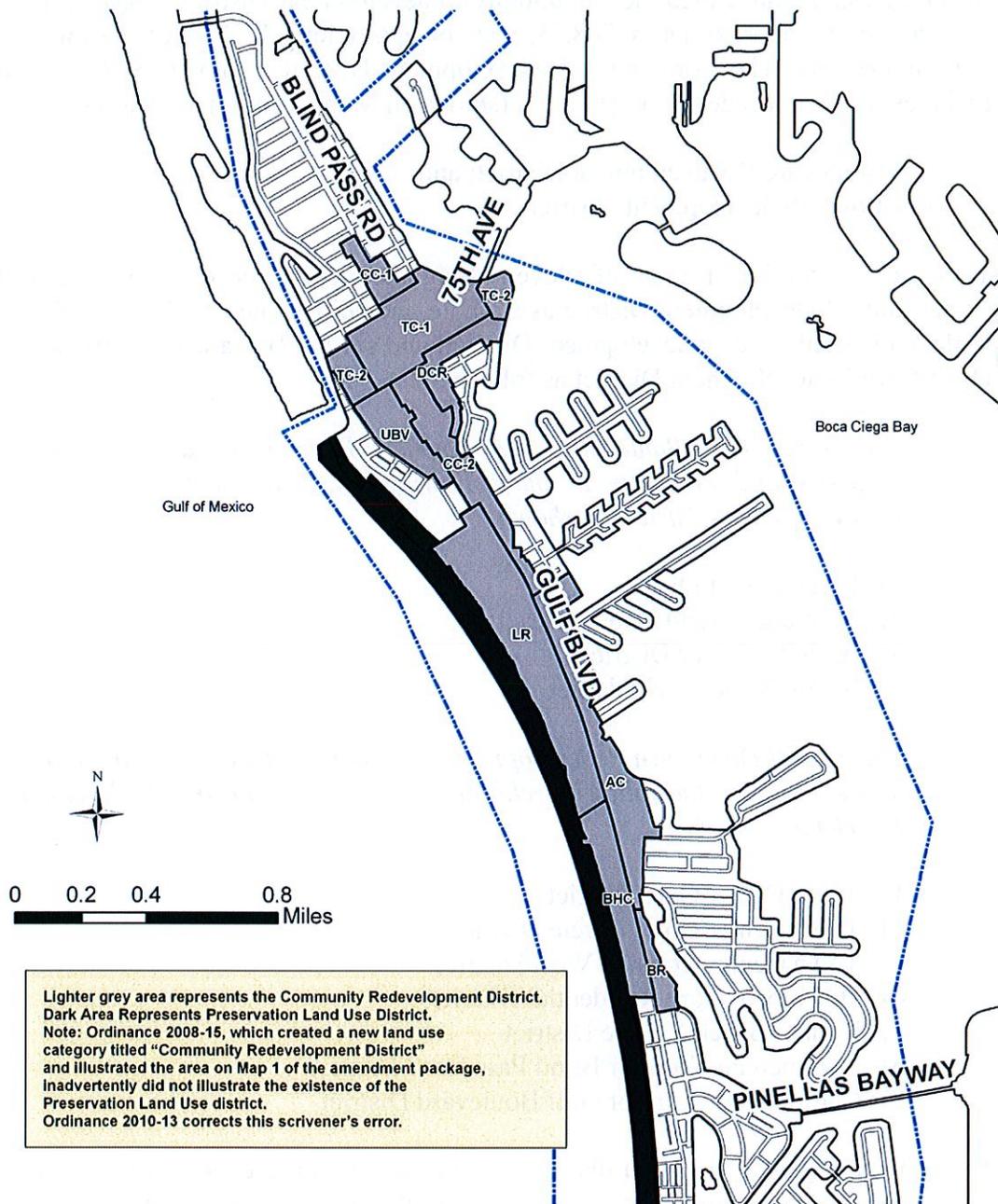
b. *The overall Downtown Redevelopment District boundary is shown on ~~Map 11 and on~~ Map 3, the following character districts within this Redevelopment District are shown:*

- 1) Town Center Core District
- 2) Town Center Corey Circle District
- 3) Town Center Coquina West District
- 4) Downtown Core Residential District
- 5) Upham Beach Village District
- 6) Commercial Corridor Blind Pass Road District
- 7) Commercial Corridor Gulf Boulevard District

The above designated character districts are intended to replace the conventional land use plan categories adopted in 1989 and 1998 that provided for medium and high density and intensity uses ranging up to forty (40) units per acre for temporary Lodging uses (Commercial General land use category) and up to thirty (30) units per acre for residential use (High Density Residential land use category) within the boundaries of the Community Redevelopment District.

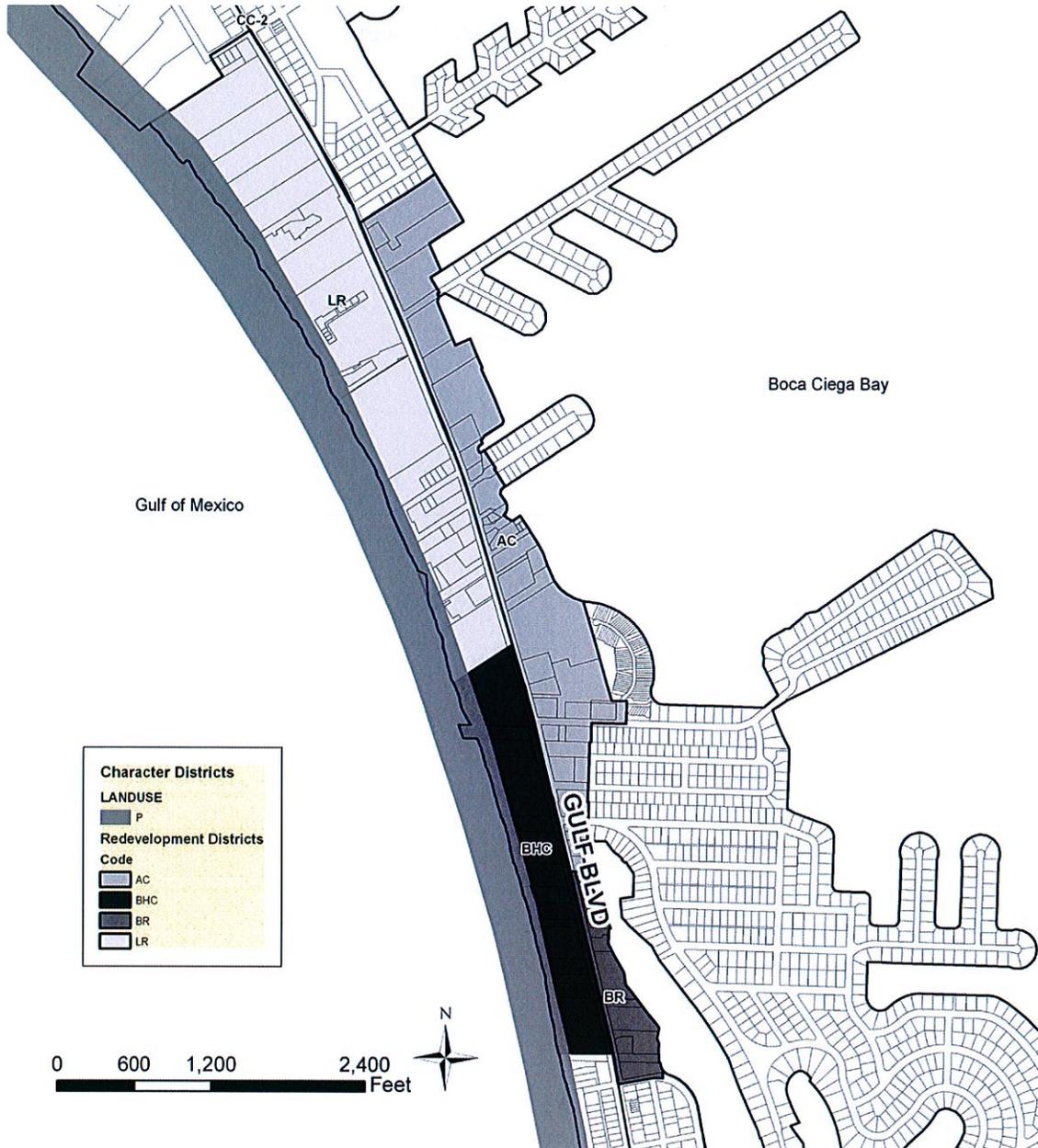
Map 1. Community Redevelopment Districts Location

Ordinance 2010-13 Map 1 Community Redevelopment District



Map 2. Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District Character Districts

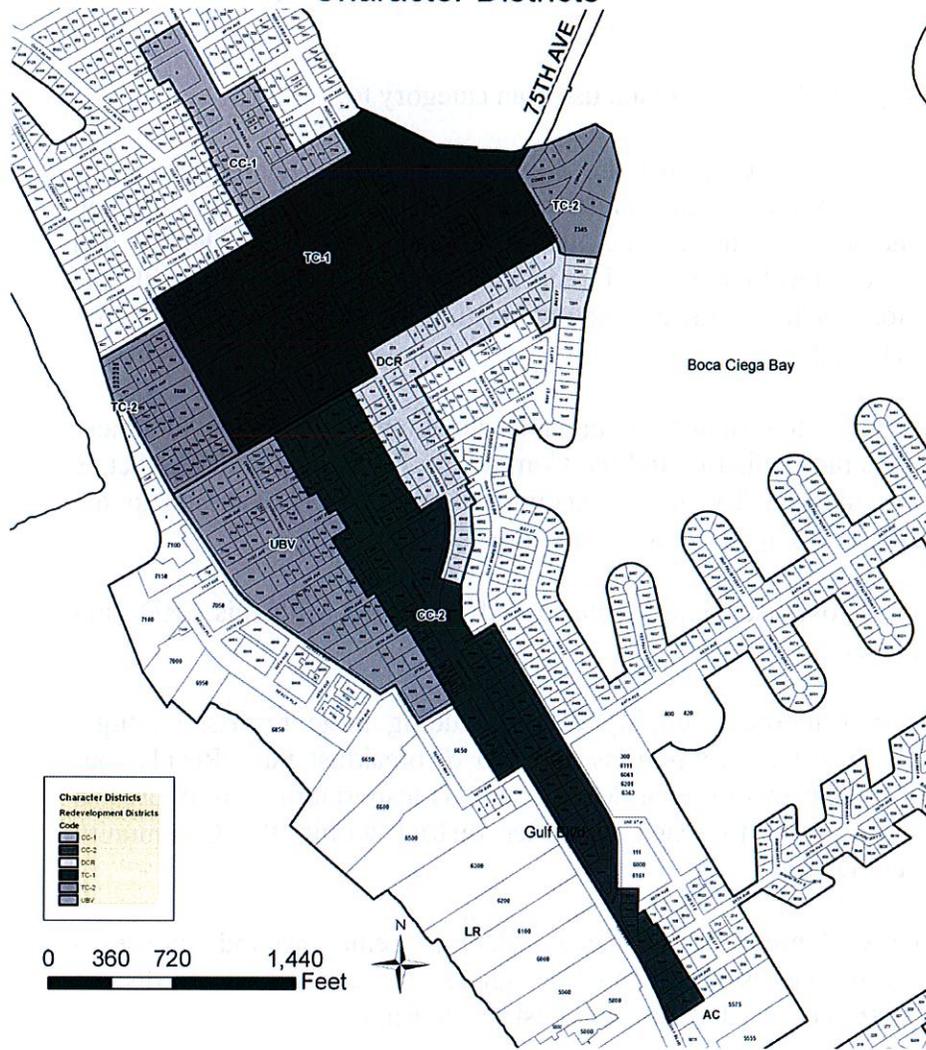
Ordinance 2010-13 Map 2 Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District Character Districts



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Map 3. Downtown Redevelopment District

Ordinance 2010-13 Map 3 Downtown Redevelopment District Character Districts



(b) Locational Characteristics. This CRD land use plan category:

1. Is generally appropriate to those community areas designed to serve as local retail, office, temporary lodging uses, financial, governmental, and multi-family residential focal points for a community.
2. Shall target those neighborhoods and core areas of the community in a manner that is designed to encourage development and redevelopment in one or more combinations of uses as identified above and set forth in each specific character district plan.

(c) Purpose. It is the purpose of this CRD land use plan category to:

1. Depict those areas of the City that are now designated, or appropriate to be designated, as community core areas and certain defined and limited neighborhoods adjacent to these core areas that contain non-residential and residential uses, for development and redevelopment in accordance with the specific plan for each character district within the overall Community Redevelopment District.
2. To encourage and promote quality sustainable development and redevelopment throughout each character district and the Community Redevelopment District as a whole, that provides quality of life, economic and aesthetic benefits to the residents throughout the City as well as its visitors.

(d) Use Characteristics. Those uses appropriate to and consistent with this CRD land use plan category include:

Primary Uses: Temporary lodging uses, including large resorts, boutique hotels, motels, resort condominiums and bed & breakfast inns; Residential; Commercial; Office; Institutional; Marina; and Transportation/ Utility uses as specifically designated for each character district within the Community Redevelopment District.

Secondary Uses: Commercial; Office; Residential; Temporary lodging uses – bed & breakfast inns as specifically designated for each character district within the Community Redevelopment District; Marina.