

Our neighborhood organization continues to stay involved on issues that affect us. Please visit our website at www.fruitville210.org for frequent updates. Your involvement and support is critical to our mission of building a better community. Take care.

Sincerely, John Krotec
Chairman, Fruitville 210 Community Alliance

Subject: Special request on COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT 2010-02-G ("Fruitville Initiative")

Dear Sarasota County Commissioners:

We must work together in maintaining the healthy, vibrant image that residents and visitors have come to expect from our wonderful community. Many of the Fruitville 210 Community Alliance Board members and residents attended and participated in the recent Fruitville charrette. As you know, the week-long discussions were an opportunity for all parties to work together on a "cohesive concept" for the development of the area east of I-75 at exit 210. It seemed like we had a real chance to create something unique and compatible with the other proposed projects in our area (specifically, the Nathan Benderson Park and Aquatic Center and the Villages of Lakewood South); however, the Planning Commission hearing concerning this initiative made it obvious that more dialogue and problem-solving needs to take place between the interested parties. After much discussion and a unanimous Board vote, we would ask your Commission to **DEFER any action at this time on Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2010-02-G** until the following can be addressed and/or implemented:

- 1) Complete the Plan Implementation Phase (Third Step) of the Charrette Process. The charrette team should test and refine the charrette plan. Communication with stakeholders should continue. Conduct a follow-up public meeting with a refined plan. The results and process of all 3 phases are summarized in a final project report ready for agency/government consideration. There is no need to hurry up the process until there is ample input from as many residents and other concerned people as possible.
- 2) Incorporate specific language that protects the "rural character" of the Rural Heritage Neighborhoods (Fox Creek I Subdivision, Pine Valley Ranches Subdivision, Fox Creek II Subdivision, and Racimo Ranches Subdivision) and from future urban style development in Special Area #3. This provision should also protect the properties on the south side of East Richardson Road as well.
- 3) Establish a specific (size) natural land/wildlife preserve, preferably in the area just west of Fox Creek I Subdivision. Incorporate the green space buffering measurements according to the 2050 Plan standards. Create a green space corridor on the Government Use property from Fruitville Road to the Celery Fields. This could help promote Eco-tourism and encourage nature-related or open-use activities.
- 4) Establish specific building height limitations that are no higher than one half the 'Church of Hope' obelisk.
- 5) Design a specific, workable road plan and offer real solutions that will mitigate future traffic forecasts.
- 6) Do not extend the Urban Service Boundary on the Crofut property that borders Richardson Road.
- 7) Create an environment and synergy that eliminates big box-type developments.

Our organization wants to continue to work with ALL interested parties. We generally support the "Fruitville Initiative" and appreciate the opportunity to take part in the charrette process; however, the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2010-02-G leaves many unanswered questions which could negatively impact the neighborhoods in the area. It is important to protect the quality-of-life for those residents affected by any future development and to craft a project that reflects the uniqueness of the Sarasota community; Fruitville Road is the true "Gateway to Sarasota." **Again, please defer any upcoming vote on this amendment.** Our future and the future of those who follow us depend on it.

Respectfully, John Krotec
Chairman, Fruitville 210 Community Alliance