

October 6, 2023

The Honorable Brian Hamman
Chairman, Lee County
Board of County Commissioners
Post Office Box 398
Fort Myers, Florida 33901-0398

Dear Chairman Hamman:

The Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce) has reviewed the proposed comprehensive plan amendment for Lee County (Amendment No. 23-05ESR) received on September 7, 2023. The review was completed under the expedited state review process. After consideration of the proposed amendment and citizen input, we have a comment regarding the proposed amendment.

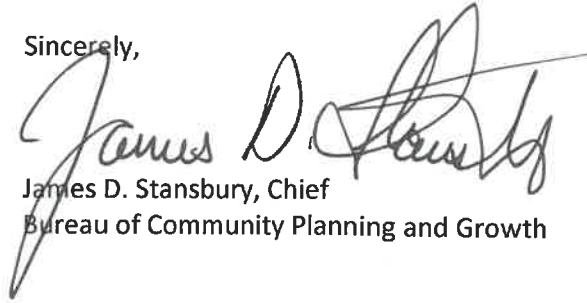
The amendment appears to fly a “false flag” of “resilience” as a primary purpose. When, in reality, the amendment is clearly at least in-part for the purpose of an increase in hotel room density. Whether or not an increase in hotel room density is appropriate is for the community to decide. Rather, we are simply urging you to have a transparent discussion with the community about the actual purpose of the amendment.

The County should act by choosing to adopt, adopt with changes, or not adopt the proposed amendment. For your assistance, we have enclosed the procedures for adoption and transmittal of the comprehensive plan amendment. In addition, the County is reminded that:

- Section 163.3184(3)(b), F.S., authorizes other reviewing agencies to provide comments directly to the County. **If the County receives reviewing agency comments and they are not resolved, these comments could form the basis for a challenge to the amendment after adoption.**
- **The second public hearing**, which shall be a hearing on whether to adopt one or more comprehensive plan amendments, **must be held within 180 days** of your receipt of agency comments or the amendment shall be **deemed withdrawn** unless extended by agreement with notice to FloridaCommerce and any affected party that provided comment on the amendment pursuant to Section 163.3184(3)(c)1., F.S.
- **The adopted amendment must be transmitted to FloridaCommerce within ten working days after the second public hearing pursuant to 163.3184(3)(c)2., F.S.** Under Section 163.3184(3)(c)2. and 4., F.S., the **amendment effective date** is 31 days after FloridaCommerce notifies the County that the amendment package is complete or, if challenged, until it is found to be in compliance by FloridaCommerce or the Administration Commission.

If you have any questions concerning this review, please contact Scott Rogers, Regional Planning Administrator, by telephone at (850)-717-8510 or by email at scott.rogers@commerce.fl.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James D. Stansbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

James D. Stansbury, Chief
Bureau of Community Planning and Growth

JDS/sr

Enclosure(s): Procedures for Adoption

cc: David Loveland, Director, Lee County Department of Community Development
Margaret Wuerstle, Executive Director, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

SUBMITTAL OF ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS

FOR EXPEDITED STATE REVIEW

Section 163.3184(3), Florida Statutes

NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED: Please submit electronically using FloridaCommerce’s electronic amendment submittal portal “**Comprehensive Plan and Amendment Upload**” (<https://fldeo.my.salesforce-sites.com/cp/>) **or** submit three complete copies of all comprehensive plan materials, of which one complete paper copy and two complete electronic copies on CD ROM in Portable Document Format (PDF) to the State Land Planning Agency and one copy to each entity below that provided timely comments to the local government: the appropriate Regional Planning Council; Water Management District; Department of Transportation; Department of Environmental Protection; Department of State; the appropriate county (municipal amendments only); the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (county plan amendments only); and the Department of Education (amendments relating to public schools); and for certain local governments, the appropriate military installation and any other local government or governmental agency that has filed a written request.

SUBMITTAL LETTER: Please include the following information in the cover letter transmitting the adopted amendment:

_____ State Land Planning Agency identification number for adopted amendment package;

_____ Summary description of the adoption package, including any amendments proposed but not adopted;

_____ Identify if concurrency has been rescinded and indicate for which public facilities. (Transportation, schools, recreation and open space).

_____ Ordinance number and adoption date;

_____ Certification that the adopted amendment(s) has been submitted to all parties that provided timely comments to the local government;

_____ Name, title, address, telephone, FAX number and e-mail address of local government contact;

_____ Letter signed by the chief elected official or the person designated by the local government.

ADOPTION AMENDMENT PACKAGE: Please include the following information in the amendment package:

_____ In the case of text amendments, changes should be shown in strike-through/underline format.

_____ In the case of future land use map amendments, an adopted future land use map, **in color format**, clearly depicting the parcel, its future land use designation, and its adopted designation.

_____ A copy of any data and analyses the local government deems appropriate.

Note: If the local government is relying on previously submitted data and analysis, no additional data and analysis is required;

_____ Copy of the executed ordinance adopting the comprehensive plan amendment(s);

Suggested effective date language for the adoption ordinance for expedited review:

"The effective date of this plan amendment, if the amendment is not timely challenged, shall be 31 days after the state land planning agency notifies the local government that the plan amendment package is complete. If the amendment is timely challenged, this amendment shall become effective on the date the state land planning agency or the Administration Commission enters a final order determining this adopted amendment to be in compliance."

_____ List of additional changes made in the adopted amendment that the State Land Planning Agency did not previously review;

_____ List of findings of the local governing body, if any, that were not included in the ordinance and which provided the basis of the adoption or determination not to adopt the proposed amendment;

_____ Statement indicating the relationship of the additional changes not previously reviewed by the State Land Planning Agency in response to the comment letter from the State Land Planning Agency.