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Alliance of Delray Residential Associations, Inc.

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January 13, 2021

The Honorable Maria Sachs 301 N. Olive Avenue Ste. 1201 West Palm Beach, Florida 33401 ALLIANCE OF DELRAY RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS

Re: Encouraging Smart Management of Development in the Agricultural Reserve

Dear Commissioner Sachs:

Historically, the Alliance of Delray has proven to be a protector of the Agricultural Reserve Tier, fiercely opposing industrial uses such as biofuel processing and manure processing facilities, and massive chipping/mulching/soil production operations that can have a deleterious effect on the sensitive conservation lands and water quality in and adjacent to the Tier. Further, the Alliance has challenged proposed increases in residential density and commercial intensity due to concerns such as the immediate need for the widening of the Atlantic Avenue corridor.

With residential, commercial, and Industrial development occurring adjacent to smaller agricultural parcels along the Atlantic Avenue corridor, the County is receiving an increased number of applications for future land use (FLU) and zoning changes with requests including increasing the commercial cap and allowing increased density with multifamily residential projects. During this pivotal time, new rules to manage growth in the Tier will need to be addressed and those rules should be compatible with the goals for which the Master Plan was developed.

What would assist in the next step of considering an increase in the commercial cap in the Tier is a County staff review of those projects that have received prior approvals for FLU and zoning changes that resulted in an increase in non-residential/commercial square footage and an accounting of the difference between what has been approved, what has been built and what the maximum development potential of square footage is for each parcel. There are several projects that have not utilized their maximum square footage of 320,000 square feet yet has been approved and is built at 278,940 square feet. If there were incentives in place that would encourage the owners of these entitlements to offer the excess square footage to the developers of those parcels that have yet to be built out, then essentially the intensity of commercial uses developed in the area would not be impacted.

Today there is little available commercial square footage in the Tier. For the future, the County might consider that conditions be imposed for any land use change that if the square footage is not utilized within a specified period of time, then the land use approval is rescinded and the square footage is placed back into the commercial cap allowance.

The Alliance is studying the issue of density of housing units in the Agricultural Reserve. Incentives for developers such as incentives and bonuses for a percentage of Workforce Housing units and Attainable Senior Housing units in the Tier do not exist but the need for them does.

With the increase in applications for text amendments and future land use changes in the Agricultural Reserve, perhaps the County Commission could provide direction to Staff regarding the points above.

Thank you for your service to the people during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Bob Schulbaum, President Lori Vinikoor Lori Vinikoor, Executive Vice President

Cc e mail: County Administrator Verdenia Baker, PZB Exec. Dir. Ramsay Bulkeley, Asst. County. Admin. Patrick Rutter, Zoning Dir. Jon MacGillis, Planning Dir. Patricia Behn, Prin. Planner Lisa Amara

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE ALLIANCE: Robert Schulbaum, President Lori Vinikoor, Executive Vice President Norma Arnold, Vice President Allen Hamlin, Vice President Arnold Katz, Vice President Ken Markowitz, Vice PresidentEvelyn Spielholz, Secretary Deborah Borenstein, Treasurer Directors: Paul Finkelstein Carol Klausner Phyllis Levine Susan Zuckerman Assistants to the President: Rose DeSanto John Gentithes Rhoda Greifer Joel Vinikoor Legal Counsel:: Joshua Gerstin