



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # *027-2014*

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Phillip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: January 16, 2014

SUBJECT: Commission Retreat Facilitator

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

The purpose of this Letter to the City Commission is to transmit the biography of James Anaston-Karas, Synaesthesia LLC Planning and Facilitation Services, who has been selected to facilitate the Commission Retreat on January 31, 2014 and February 1, 2014.

Mr. James Anaston-Karas is a senior manager and certified facilitator with 28-year plus accomplishments in public/private sector strategic planning; development/redevelopment, marine and environmental resource planning; public administration, organizational leadership, public participation and advocacy.

The week of January 21, 2014, we will be working to schedule one-on-ones with Mr. Anaston-Karas and each of you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

JLM/KGB/LDR

James Anaston-Karas, Community Planning & Facilitation

Professional Synopsis

Senior manager and certified facilitator with 28-year plus accomplishments in public/private sector strategic planning; development/redevelopment, marine and environmental resource planning; public administration, organizational leadership, public participation and advocacy.

Relevant Experience (Years experience)

- **Strategic Planner.** Certified workshop facilitator using various nominal group techniques to compose strategic plans for senior management of local governments, not-for-profits, and businesses. Led various policy and leadership retreats with applied consensus-building skills. (5)
- **Co-Director, VHB Miller Sellen's** Stuart office. Community & resource planning, design, & civil engineering services for public/private clients (35,000 acres in Florida's Treasure Coast). (5)
- **Master Planning Manager.** Mixed-use, recreation, site, master and comprehensive planning for various public and private clients ranging from large agri-business land owners to community redevelopment agencies. Applied urban planning, design, and sustainability principles. Charrette Planning and management, public outreach and workshop facilitation. (5)
- **Director, South Florida Water Management District,** Broward County Service Center. Executed agency policy balancing economic development/urban growth with sustainable water & environmental resources. Managed public and media outreach, land use, and water supply planning including over \$50 M value water resource partnership contracts. Staff to Governor's Commission for Sustainable South Florida applying group facilitation toward consensus building. (8)
- **Legislative Manager, Broward County.** Executed legislative agenda as registered lobbyist to manage complex issues including annexation and growth management; helped secure multi-millions in grants and appropriations for wide range of projects and programs such as Port Everglades, Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, and Tri-Rail (RTA). (5)
- **Policy Coordinator for Speaker of Florida House,** Growth Management House Subcommittee Chief Analyst, Senior Legislative Aide in the Florida Senate. Specialties in growth management, water and natural resources, and special districts. Managed Speaker's Board and Committee appointments, and Senator's constituent services. Assisted with major legislation. (8)
- **Media Outreach, Spokesman, and Public Speaker.** Project spokesman for very high value community master plans. Frequent conference presenter and moderator; Coordinated media relations and organized press conferences. Multi-media interviews. (15)
- **Adjunct Professor, Environmental Planning,** Florida Atlantic University. (3)

Education/ Certifications

- **Master of City and Regional Planning,** Ohio State University, 1983.
- Certificate, **Liberal Arts and Architecture,** Oxford University, England, 1981
- Bachelor of Arts, **Political Science,** Southern Illinois University, 1980
- Certificate, **Charrette Planning,** National Charrette Institute.
- Certificate, **Advanced Facilitation,** Broward County Board of County Commissioners.
- Merchant Mariner Credential, (**Sea Captain**) 50 Ton Master, United States Coast Guard.

Select Memberships/Activities

- **American Planning Association,** Florida Chapter Member & Speaker; Legislative Policy Committee; National Instructor for Institute of Certified Planner (AICP) study courses.
- **Association of Strategic Planning,** Affiliate.
- **Urban Land Institute.** Vice Chair of Southeast Florida/Caribbean Advisory Board.
- **Marine Industries Association.** Treasure Coast Board of Directors, Affiliate of South Florida & Florida Associations.
- **Sustainable Treasure Coast, Inc.** Vice President and Executive Committee.
- **Leadership Broward Foundation, Inc.** Vice President, Event Chair, Honoree.
- **South Florida Regional Planning Council.** Ex-officio gubernatorial appointee.
- **Florida Senator Peter M. Weinstein, Outstanding Service Award.**
- **Boys and Girls Clubs** of Broward County. Unit President, and Board Member; Mentor of the Year, STARS Academy for at-risk youth; Over \$50,000 not-for-profit fund-raising.



Select Projects/ Clients

Municipal Strategic Priorities Plans/ Oviedo, Opa-Locka, Stuart, Miami Lakes; Lincoln Park Mainstreet (Ft. Pierce), Downtown Business Owners Associations (Stuart and Vero Beach), Florida Emergency Medical Association, Education Foundation of Martin County.

"Strategic Planning in Tight Budget Times" workshop leader/ Florida League of Cities Annual Conference 2011

Martin County Enterprise Zone Strategic Development Plan; Martin County Commission Strategic Plan Update / Martin County Commission

Strategic Redevelopment & Waterfront Planning/ Stuart CRA

Bayfront Village CRA Strategic Plan update/ Palm Bay CRA

Best Practices for Citizen Participation in Florida Planning (Primary Author)/ American Planning Association Florida

Port of Ft. Pierce Strategic Master Plan & Port Engineering/ ABCOM & Dredging & Marine Consultants, Inc. for FDOT, City of Ft. Pierce & St. Lucie County Commission

Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida/ South Florida Water Management District

Waterways and Marine Master Planning/ Steering Committee Member for South Florida and Treasure Coast Plans/ Marine Industries Association & Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council