



Banner from the Redevelopment Master Plan

West Melbourne/Brevard County Joint
Community Redevelopment Agency
Annual Report to Brevard County



Fiscal Year 2018-2019
Published March 3, 2020

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Appendix – Joint West Melbourne-Brevard County Community Redevelopment Area map

Note for this report: CRA = Community Redevelopment Area

CRA ≠ Community Redevelopment Agency

The phrase Community Redevelopment Agency is spelled out in this report to distinguish the two terms.

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

a. MISSION AND OVERVIEW

REQUIRED ANNUAL REPORT -

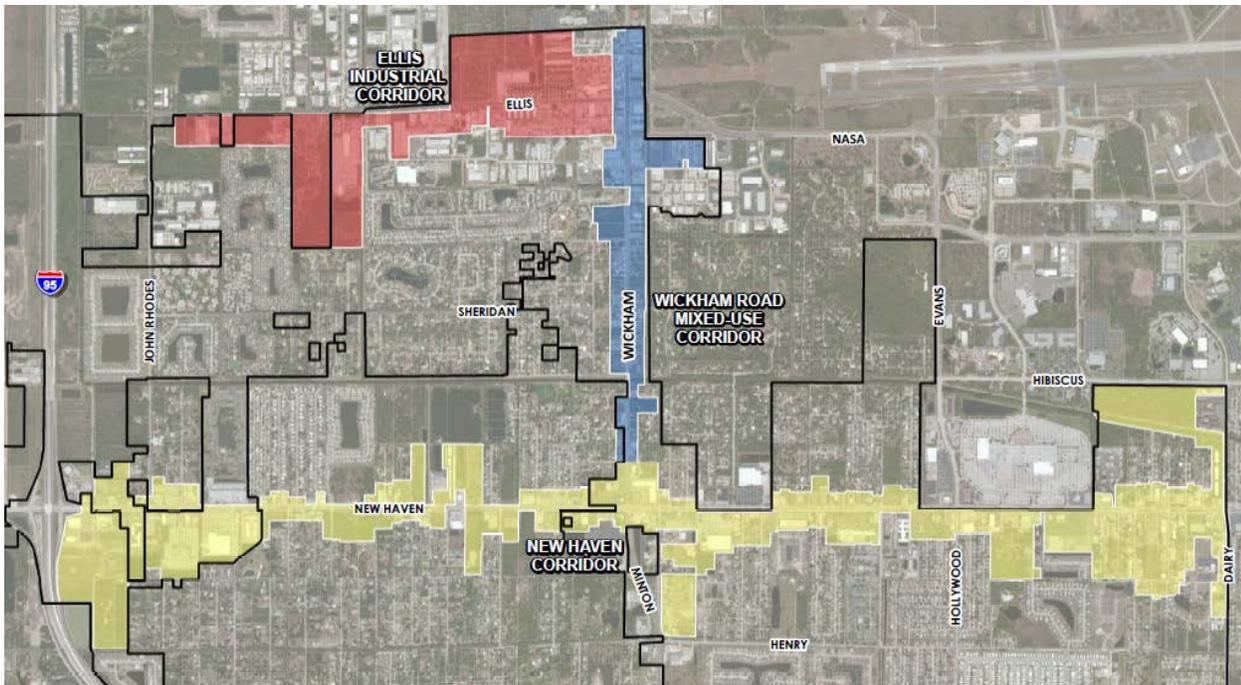
Chapter 163.356(3)(c), Florida Statutes, requires that community redevelopment agencies file an annual report of their financial activities with the taxing authorities by March 31st of each year for the preceding fiscal year. The details in this report comply with Brevard County and State of Florida requirements for annual reporting on this joint community redevelopment area. This annual report has been prepared and is filed for fiscal year 2018-2019.

This report is a retrospective review of the Community Redevelopment Agency's efforts, the financial status of the trust fund, the beautification efforts near the interchange of I-95 and New Haven Avenue, and capital improvement programs as of the close of the 2018-2019 fiscal year on September 30, 2019.

WHEN WAS IT FORMED?

The unique West Melbourne/Brevard County Joint Community Redevelopment Agency was created in 2011. This redevelopment area encompasses two unincorporated areas and three areas in the West Melbourne city limits along three main corridors: the New Haven Corridor that stretches from the Intersection of I-95 to Dairy Road, the Wickham Road Mixed-Use Corridor that extends north from New Haven Ave to Emerald Drive, and the Ellis Industrial Corridor that extends west from Wickham Road to John Rodes Blvd (the following map shows the CRA boundaries).

Per the 2018 interlocal agreement between the City and County, the CRA will sunset on September 30, 2038 (five years earlier than the Statutorily allowed 30 year horizon).



2013 REDEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

The adopted Redevelopment Master Plan guides the redevelopment focus of the CRA. The three primary categories addressed in the Plan are:

- 1) Identification of primary redevelopment opportunity areas and corresponding infrastructure including sidewalks, bike paths, stormwater and utilities.
- 2) Identification of private investment opportunities as well as recommended programs for improvements including gateways, streetscape, wayfinding and branding.
- 3) Identification of governmental actions that can implement some of the 55 strategies listed in the Master Plan including updates to comprehensive plans, land development codes, proactive code enforcement, business development programs and incentives for business retention.

b. TRANSMITTAL LETTER

West Melbourne/Brevard County Joint
Community Redevelopment Agency

Hal J. Rose, Chairman
John Dittmore, Vice-Chairman
Daniel Batchelder
Pat Bentley
Adam Gaffney
Barbara A. Smith
Andrea Young
Kristine Isnardi



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Date: **March __, 2020**

VIA CERTIFIED AND REGISTERED MAIL

Florida Auditor General;
Florida Department of Financial Services;
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity;
Brevard County Property Appraiser;
Joint West Melbourne-Brevard County Community Redevelopment Agency;
City Council; and
Brevard County Board of Commissioners (all); and County Manager

RE: West Melbourne/Brevard County Joint Community Redevelopment Agency Annual
Financial Report

Ladies and Gentlemen,

City staff is pleased to submit the West Melbourne/Brevard County Joint Community Redevelopment Agency Annual Report for fiscal year 2019-2020. The Joint Community Redevelopment Agency Annual Report was filed with the City of West Melbourne and Brevard County on March ____, 2020. Under Florida law (Chapter 163, Part III), local governments are required to file a report of the activities of the previous fiscal year by March 31st of each year. This transparency supports the efficient utilization of resources when they are applied to the redevelopment of our business corridors.

Attachment

SECTION II – BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

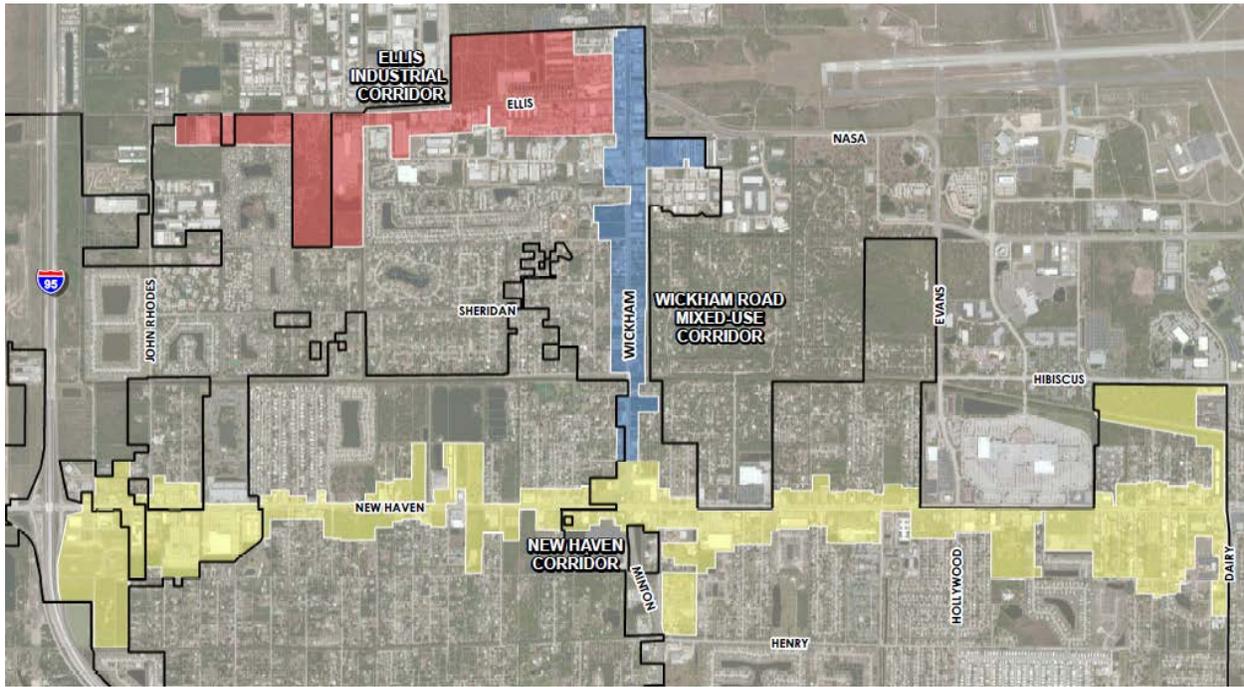
Who are the members of the Community Redevelopment Agency?

The activities and programs offered within a CRA are administered by the Community Redevelopment Agency. An eight-member Community Redevelopment Agency Board created by the City of West Melbourne and Brevard County in 2011. The Community Redevelopment Agency Board is served by the City of West Melbourne staff at no cost to the Agency. Community Redevelopment Agency members and staff at the close of the fiscal year on September 30, 2019, are listed in the table below.

WEST MELBOURNE/BREVARD COUNTY JOINT COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (As of October 1, 2019)

Chairman	Hal Rose (West Melbourne Mayor)
Vice Chairman	John Dittmore (West Melbourne Deputy Mayor)
CRA Official	Daniel Batcheldor (West Melbourne Council)
CRA Official	Barbara Smith (West Melbourne Council)
CRA Official	Kristine Isnardi (District 5 County Commissioner)
CRA Official	Andrea Young (West Melbourne Council)
CRA Official	Pat Bentley (West Melbourne Council)
CRA Official	Adam Gaffney (West Melbourne Council)
Registered Agent	Scott Morgan (West Melbourne City Manager)
CRA Attorney	Morris Richardson (West Melbourne City Attorney)
Executive Director	Christy Fischer (West Melbourne Planning Director)
CRA Clerk	Cynthia Hanscom (West Melbourne City Clerk)
Financial Officer	Margi Starkey (West Melbourne Finance Director)

SECTION III – BOUNDARY LINES (see Appendix map for larger size)



SECTION IV – HISTORY

- a. Creation Date: *July 12, 2012*
- b. Plan Amendment Dates: *None*
- c. Applicable Resolution(s) and Ordinances:
 - i. City Resolution No. 2011-22*
 - ii. County Ordinance No. 2011-28*
 - iii. City Ordinance No. 2012-19*

SECTION V – PROJECTS OVERVIEW

The Community Redevelopment Agency, in partnership with the community is spearheading redevelopment efforts to create an attractive business climate and promote commercial property improvements. This section lists some of the milestones and accomplishments.

CRA Milestones:

2011 Collaboration - West Melbourne and Brevard County began discussing embarking on a joint community redevelopment area since some of New Haven Avenue and Wickham Road are in unincorporated county areas. The two government entities collaborated for months about creating a community redevelopment area based on the following findings of blight:

- Business corridors with high vacancy rates
- Outdated building density/intensity patterns
- Inadequate transportation and parking facilities
- Faulty lot layouts and inadequate street layouts related to older subdivisions and road widenings

2013 Master Plan Adopted – All CRA's must have a redevelopment plan and can only carry out tasks identified in the master plan. The adoption of a Community Redevelopment Plan for the West Melbourne/Brevard County Joint CRA occurred in March 2013 and the 55 identified strategies outline the main programs and results that the joint CRA is endeavoring to achieve during its 30 year tenure through the year 2043. The strategies were partially drawn from a series of workshops conducted with business owners along New Haven Avenue, Wickham Road and Ellis Road.

2013 Revenue Fund Initiated - The tax increment trust fund (revenue) was initiated in May of 2013, and the coding of the specific properties by the Brevard County Property Appraiser that were included in the CRA area occurred in the summer of 2013. The City and County trust fund is limited per Florida Statutes to 95% of the incremental increase of City and County general ad valorem taxes generated in the CRA boundaries over the 2011-2012 base year.

2013 First Budget and First Working Capital – The City of West Melbourne approved an interlocal agreement in September 2013 to extend administrative services to the Community Redevelopment Agency at no cost and to lend the working capital for the Agency for ten years. This working capital loan is a no-interest loan providing the capital required for the Agency start up.

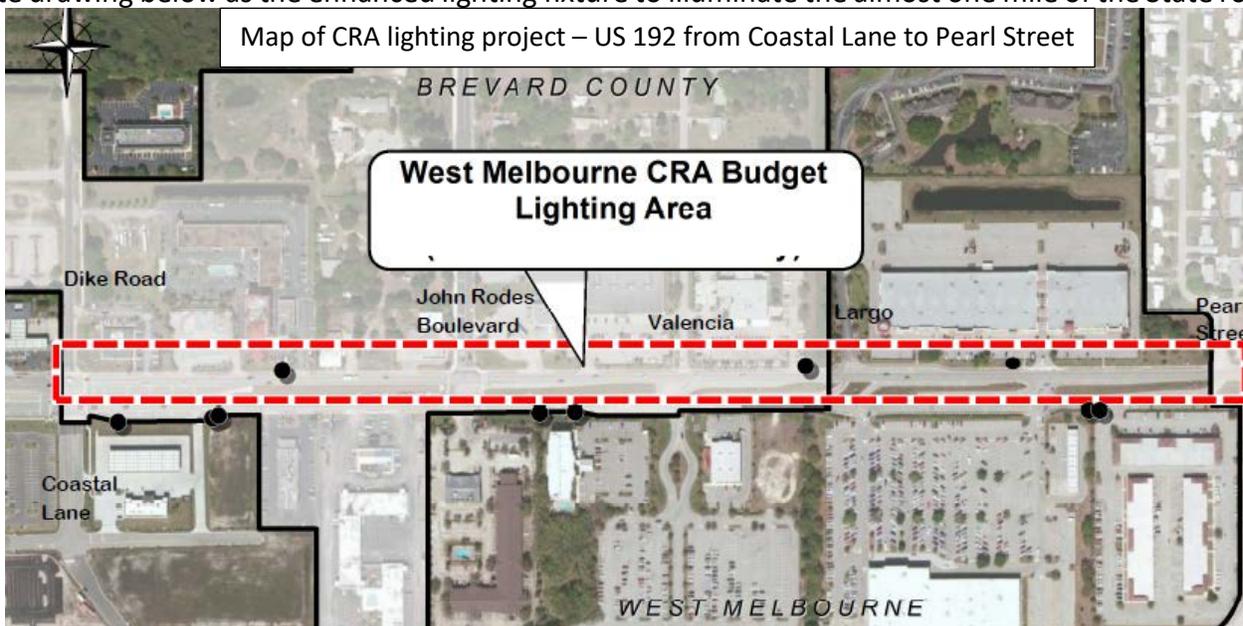
2014 Activities – The 2014 CRA work plan consisted of the initiation of the commercial façade loans, and providing funding for the lighting on New Haven Avenue near I-95. However, coordination with FDOT for its share of the road lighting took longer than initially expected and has continued into 2015 and 2016. The first façade redevelopment loan was approved and work on the façade of the business located along Wickham Road, Space Coast Massage, was completed in 2014.

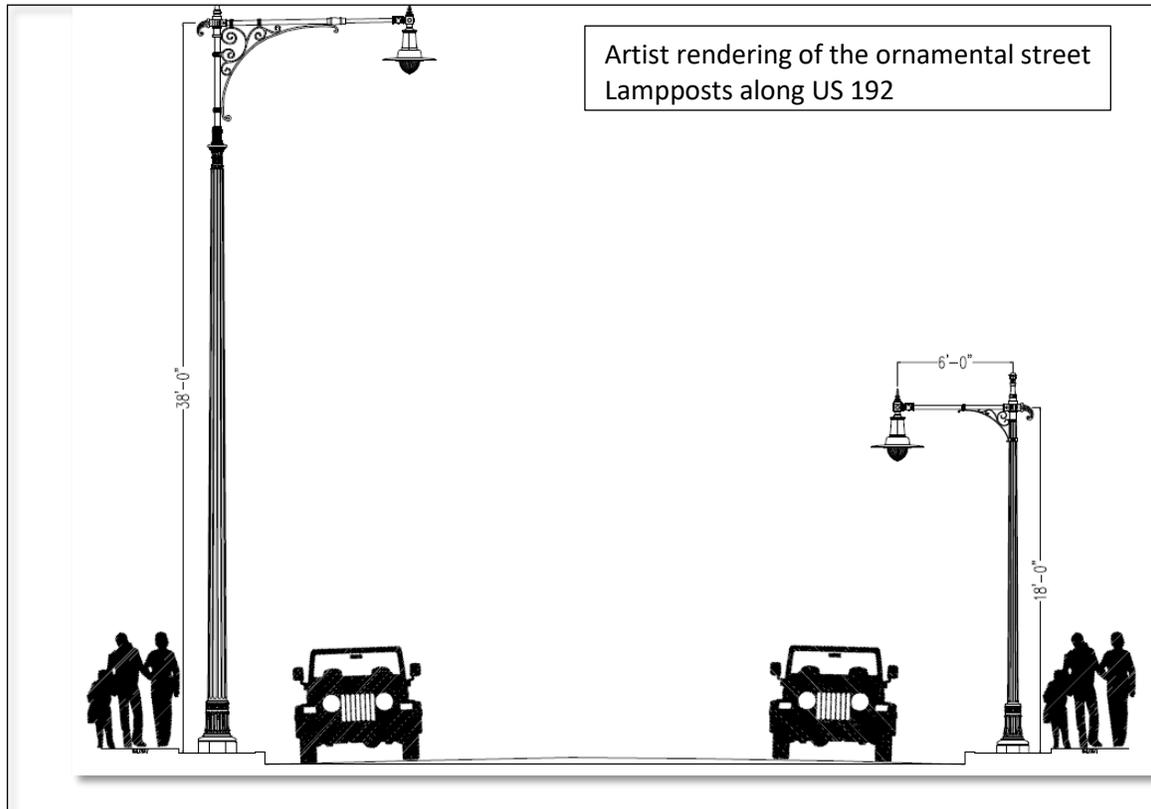
In 2014-2015, as a separate activity since the interchange of I-95 and New Haven Avenue is not part of the CRA but is next to it, the City of West Melbourne with a grant from FDOT, planted hundreds of trees

and a new fountain along the interchange and the State’s retention pond. The beautification of this interchange complements the public right of way improvement endeavors of the CRA, since the CRA boundaries end on New Haven Avenue before the interchange and the CRA embarked on a street lighting beautification program on New Haven Avenue, also known as US 192/State Road 500. The FDOT landscape grant was part of FDOT’s set aside when highway improvements are completed such as the bridge enhancements and 6-laning of the interstate.



2015 Activities – For the past several years, FDOT identified New Haven Avenue as too dark for motorists and FDOT’s typical illumination consists of installing wooden poles and cobra head style street lights. The City of West Melbourne and the Community Redevelopment Agency have joined forces to leverage funds from FDOT and to install decorative lighting on New Haven Avenue from west of I-95 near Columbia Lane to Pearl Street (next to Safelite Auto Glass). The CRA funded section of improvements starts at Dike Road and ends at Pearl Street (see map below). In the spring of 2015, the Community Redevelopment Agency chose the “Parkwood” style of street pole and lamp shown in the black and white drawing below as the enhanced lighting fixture to illuminate the almost one mile of the State road.





2016 Street lighting Activities – The predominant activity in 2016 was the lighting proposal for US 192 from the interstate to Pearl Street. One of the obstacles has been issues related to the design of the lighting plan in FDOT’s right of way. The City obtained on behalf of FDOT title to the turn lane in front of Sam’s Club by conducting new surveys and ensuring the street light design reflected the updates. The City sent the lighting construction drawings out to bid in 2017 and received the results of the contractor bids on March 21st, 2017 and the project was completed in 2017.

The Community Redevelopment Agency no longer engages in the façade loan program for commercial properties along New Haven Avenue, Ellis Road and Wickham Road. If businesses approach City of West Melbourne staff about using the loan program, it will be reconsidered, but there was no interest during the 2016-2017 fiscal year, nor in fiscal year 2017-2018. City staff continues to encourage redevelopment of existing commercial businesses in our three corridors of emphasis as evidenced by the City’s passage of collapsed zoning districts along US 192 and Wickham Road that allows property owners greater flexibility and a wider array of possible uses instead of the previous segregation into 4-5 zoning districts of commercial districts with specific differences between neighboring properties. Meaning that future redevelopment along these two roads will be more cohesive and less confusing to potential redevelopers.

The State of Florida in its 2019 legislation required that Community Redevelopment Agencies report on the total number of projects started and completed and the estimated cost for each project in that fiscal year.

Total Projects started in FY 18-19	Total amount of affordable housing for low-income and middle-income*
0	0

*The Joint County-City interlocal agreement in 2018 prohibits use of the tax increments funds for anything other than infrastructure

2017-2018 Street lighting Activities –

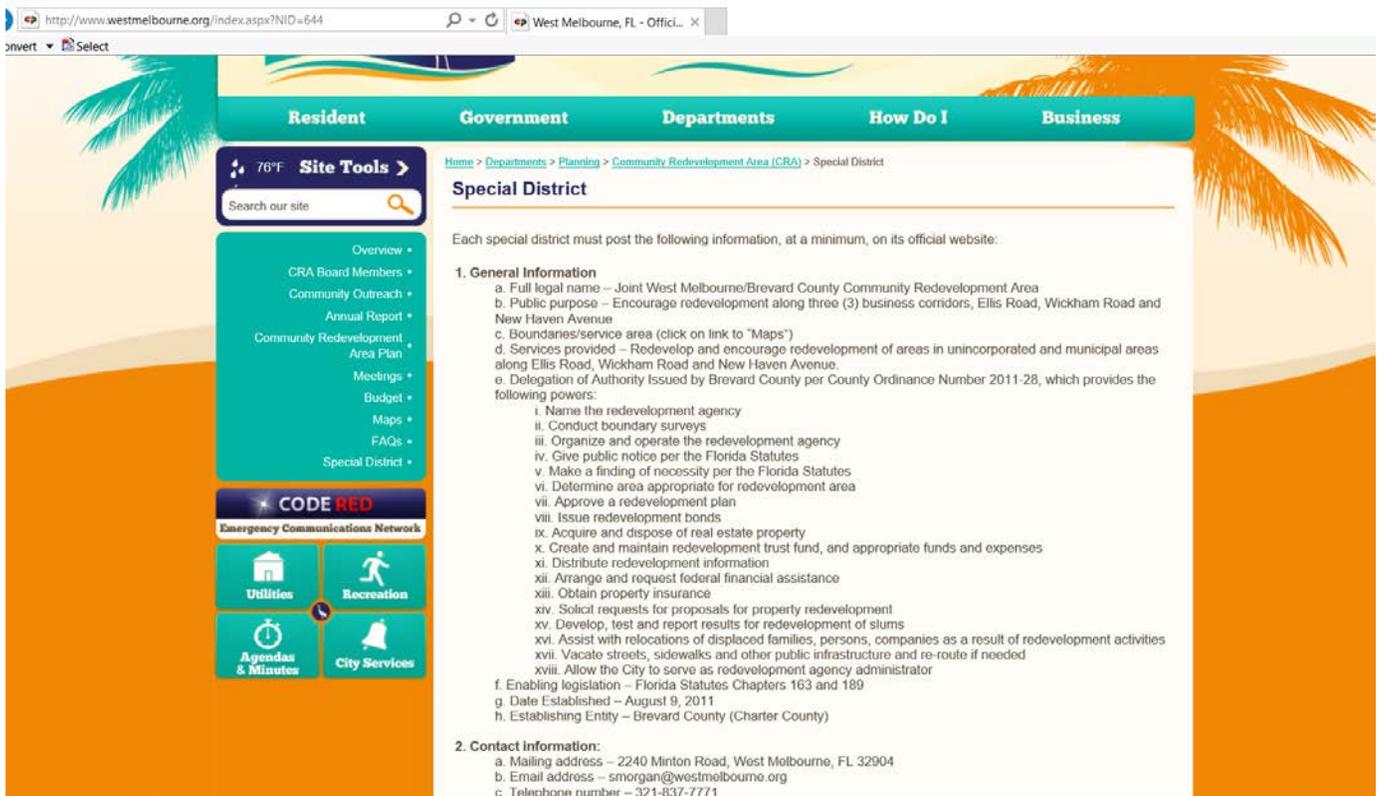
In 2017, City Council awarded the bid for the US 192 (New Haven Avenue) street lighting project to the company named PowerCore in the amount of \$764,044.58. This amount excluded the poles and fixtures, which have been purchased directly by the City. The Notice to Proceed was issued with a start date of January 22, 2018. The contractor for the project finished the project in 2018 and not only were there lights illuminating both the sidewalk and US 192 during the holidays, but the City of West Melbourne hangs decorative banners for the holidays.



(Street lights installed in 2018 along US 192)

WEBSITE

Special District website requirements – (Screen shot of City’s “Special District” web page)



The “West Melbourne/Brevard County Joint Community Redevelopment Agency” was one of the first in Brevard County to update its web site to include an organized outline of the features of the special district new statutory requirements. The purpose of the new requirements by the State of Florida was to add transparency to a complex maze of special districts by having Community Redevelopment Agencies identify themselves as special districts, with listed purposes, establishment dates, and contact information. The State of Florida had conducted an exhaustive review of existing special districts in 2013 which included identification of all such taxing authorities like ports, inlet districts, airports and community redevelopment agencies and had determined that every special district should include basic information linking their taxing authority or tax source of revenue with a stated purpose.

SECTION VI – FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Balance Sheet:

FY 2018-2019 Assets:

Cash and Investments		<u>\$626,706</u>
	Total Assets	\$626,706

FY 2018-2019 Liabilities:

City Loan Debt Service – Long Term		\$500,000
City Loan Debt Service – Current		<u>\$100,000</u>
	Total Liabilities	\$600,000

b. Statement of Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Fund Balances:

FY 2018-2019 Revenues:

FDOT US Highway 192 Lighting Grant		\$212,270
Increment Financing (County)		\$172,294
Increment Financing (City)		<u>\$172,294</u>
	Total Revenue	\$556,858

FY 2018-2019 Expenditures:

Personnel costs		\$ -
Operating Expenditures		<u>\$175</u>
	Total Expenditures	\$175

FY 2018-2019 Changes in Fund Balance

Fund Balance – Beginning of Year		(\$529,977)
Net Activity FY 2018-2019		<u>556,683</u>
	Fund Balance	\$26,706

c. Summary of Projects, Grants & Debt

The Community Redevelopment Agency no longer engages in the façade loan program for commercial properties along New Haven Avenue, Ellis Road and Wickham Road. If businesses approach City of West Melbourne staff about using the loan program, the City explains that per an Interlocal Agreement with Brevard County in 2018 CRA money spending is limited to these categories:

- Property acquisition
- Road improvements
- Stormwater improvements
- Stormwater facilities related to the widening of Ellis Road from John Rodes Boulevard to Wickham Road
- Sewer projects that serve commercial properties in the unincorporated portions of the CRA

City staff continues to encourage redevelopment of existing commercial businesses in our three corridors of emphasis as evidenced by the City's passage of collapsed zoning districts along US 192 and Wickham Road that allows property owners greater flexibility and a wider array of possible uses instead of the previous segregation into 4-5 zoning districts of commercial districts with specific differences between neighboring properties. Meaning that future redevelopment along these two roads will be more cohesive and less confusing to potential redevelopers. Staff anticipates that when Brevard County and the Florida Department of Transportation have completed design plans for four-laning Ellis Road, that CRA funds can be used to supplement the drainage requirements of the project.

SECTION VII – PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

- a. Total projects started, completed and estimate cost for each project: *The Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and its governing agency had no active projects for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, although the governing agency still has debt to pay off the original Community Redevelopment Report which established its mission.*
- b. Number of jobs created and sector of the economy from which these jobs were created within the CRA: *There were no active CRA projects from which direct jobs would have been created and this is not one of the agreed upon uses of funds from the 2018 County-City interlocal agreement. However, the City has a list of properties developed or redeveloped in the CRA since the inception of the district, thus fulfilling its mission of redevelopment in the area.*
- c. Number of jobs retained within the CRA: *There were no active CRA projects from which jobs would have directly been retained and this is not one of the agreed upon uses of funds from the 2018 County-City interlocal agreement. However, the City has created a list of properties developed or redeveloped in the CRA since the inception of the district.*
- d. Assessed property values when CRA was enacted vs. current assessed property values:

Base Year 2012	
County	\$219,775,470
City	\$184,197,920

Taxable Year 2019	
County	\$321,007,633
City	\$270,454,313

- e. Total amount expended for affordable housing: *Pursuant to the 2018 County-City interlocal agreement this is not a category eligible for Community Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing.*

SECTION VIII – ADDITIONAL ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- a. Provide the Board of County Commissioners the Community Redevelopment Agency's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, 60 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year: *The Community Redevelopment Agency prepares its budget in the spring and thus is compliant with the County's 60 day requirement prior to September 30, 2020.*

- b. Provide the Board of County Commissioners any budget amendments to its operating budget within 10 days after the adoption by the Community Redevelopment Agency: *The Community Redevelopment Agency has not had any budget amendments in FY 2018-2019 but will comply with the 10-day submittal requirement to the County's.*

SECTION IX – SUMMARY

The primary purpose of a community redevelopment area is to encourage property revitalization and redevelopment. It has been shown that public improvements, such as extension of sewer lines, continuation of sidewalks, street lighting, and other enhancements near undeveloped properties spur private investment in the area and ultimately add value to property values, franchise fees, sales taxes, local retail and housing investments. The West Melbourne/Brevard County Joint Community Redevelopment Agency is in its fifth year of operation and believes that the public improvements of street lighting, development code changes and gradual implementation of other strategies identified in the 2013 Redevelopment Master Plan yields the increased property values from redevelopment and new development and other benefits to an area that might otherwise continue further into blight conditions.

APPENDIX – COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MAP