Article VII of the Miami Gardens Code entitled, “Lobbyist” requires that all lobbyists before engaging in any lobbying activities to register with the City Clerk and pay a one-time annual fee of $250.00. This applies to all persons who are retained (whether paid or not) to represent a business entity or organization to influence “City” action. “City” action is broadly described to include the ranking and selection of professional consultants, and virtually all-legislative, quasi-judicial and administrative action. All not-for-profit organizations, local chamber and merchant groups, homeowner associations, or trade associations and unions must also register however an annual fee is not required.

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

B. INVOCATION

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   None

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

F. RESOLUTIONS
   None
G. NEW BUSINESS

G-1) DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED MIAMI GARDENS
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

H. ADJOURNMENT

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, ALL PERSONS WHO ARE DISABLED
AND WHO NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING BECAUSE OF THAT DISABILITY
SHOULD CONTACT MARIO BATAILLE, CMC, CITY CLERK AT 305-914-9010, ext. 2830, NOT LATER THAN 48 HOURS
PRIOR TO SUCH PROCEEDING. TDD NUMBER 1-800-955-8771.

ANYONE WISHING TO OBTAIN A COPY OF ANY AGENDA ITEM MAY CONTACT MARIO BATAILLE, CMC, and CITY
CLERK AT 305-914-9010, ext. 2830. THE ENTIRE AGENDA PACKAGE CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT
www.miamigardens-fl.gov.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS WITH RESPECT TO ANY
MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND, FOR
SUCH PURPOSE, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH
RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

Please turn-off cellular telephones to avoid interrupting the Local
Planning Agency meeting.
Local Planning Agency  
Agenda Cover Memo

CRA Board Meeting Date: September 26, 2018  
Item Type: Resolution  
Resolution  

Ordinance  
Other

Fiscal Impact:  
(Enter X in box)  
Yes  
No

Ordinance Reading:  
(Enter X in box)  
1st Reading  
2nd Reading

Public Hearing:  
(Enter X in box)  
Yes  
No

Funding Source:  
N/A

Advertising Requirement:  
(Enter X in box)  
Yes  
No

Contract/P.O. Required:  
(Enter X in box)  
Yes  
No

RFP/RFQ/Bid #:  
N/A

Sponsor Name: Cameron D. Benson, City Manager  
Department: City Manager’s Office

Short Title:  
DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED MIAMI GARDENS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN.

Staff Summary:

Background
At its September 12, 2018 regular meeting, the City Council has declared itself as the Board for the NW 27th Avenue Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). Per Florida Statutes, the Community Redevelopment Area is to be governed by a Community Redevelopment Agency, or “CRA Board”. This is the first meeting of the CRA Board.

Current Situation
Refer the Community Redevelopment Plan to the Local Planning Agency
The City has retained Keith and Schnars, P.A. as planning consultants to prepare a Community Redevelopment Plan, as required by Section 163.360, Florida Statutes, as the guiding document for the new NW 27th Avenue Community Redevelopment Area. In order for the NW 27th Avenue CRA to be activated, the Redevelopment Plan shall be reviewed by the City’s Local Planning Agency and ultimately approved by the CRA Board, City Council, and the Miami-Dade County Commission.

The CRA Board shall refer the proposed Redevelopment Plan to the City’s Local Planning Agency (LPA) for review and consistency with Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes, particularly Section 163.362, and with the City’s Comprehensive Development Master Plan. After receiving comments and recommendations from the LPA, the CRA Board shall hold another meeting (expected to be October 10, 2018) to approve the Plan.
Following CRA Board approval of the Plan, it is then to be approved by the City Council, followed by Miami-Dade County Commission. It is anticipated that the NW 27th Avenue CRA may be active by the end of November 2018 at which time a Redevelopment Trust Fund will be established.

Analysis
Operationally, the CRA Board is intended to sustain itself and this is one of the steps to achieve implementation of the NW 27th Avenue CRA.

Proposed Action:

The CRA Board shall take action to refer the NW 27th Avenue Community Redevelopment Plan to the City’s Local Planning Agency for consistency with Chapter 163, Part III, of the Florida Statutes and the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Attachment:

Attachment A – Proposed NW 27th Avenue Community Redevelopment Plan
Miami Gardens
NW 27th Avenue
Community Redevelopment Area

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

ADOPTION PENDING

Prepared by:
Keith & Schnars
## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Miami-Dade County Commission
- **District 1** - Barbara Jordan  
- **District 2** - Jean Monestime  
- **District 3** - Audrey Edmonson  
- **District 4** - Sally Heyman  
- **District 5** – Eileen Higgins  
- **District 6** - Rebeca Sosa  
- **District 7** - Xavier Suarez  
- **District 8** - Daniella Levine Cava  
- **District 9** - Dennis Moss  
- **District 10** - Javier Souto  
- **District 11** - Joe Martinez  
- **District 12** - Jose Diaz  
- **District 13** - Esteban Bovo, Jr.

### City of Miami Gardens City Council
- Oliver G. Gilbert III, Mayor  
- Erhabor Ighodaro, Ph. D., Vice Mayor  
- Lisa C. Davis, Councilwoman  
- Rodney Harris, Councilman  
- Lillie Q. Odom, Councilwoman  
- Felicia Robinson, Councilwoman  
- David Williams Jr., Councilman

### City Manager’s Office
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- Vernita Nelson, Assistant City Manager  
- Craig Clay, Assistant City Manager  
- Tracey Ann Anthony, Assistant to the City Manager

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- O. Tom Ruiz, CGC, CFM, Public Works Director  
- Mirtha Dziedzic, Finance Director  
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- Kevin Johnson II, Keith and Schnars  
- Sofia Thordin, Keith and Schnars  
- Samantha Kanach, Keith and Schnars  
- Phil Gonot, PMG Associates, Inc.  
- Frank Schnidman, J.D., L.L.M.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES .................................................................................................................. 6
LIST OF FIGURES .................................................................................................................. 6

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND OVERALL GOALS ........................................... 7
   Overall Goals .................................................................................................................... 8

SECTION II: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CRA ................................................................. 10
   Creation ............................................................................................................................. 10
   Severability ..................................................................................................................... 10
   Powers ............................................................................................................................. 10
   Interlocal Agreement ..................................................................................................... 11
   Authority to Undertake Redevelopment ....................................................................... 11
   Community Redevelopment Plan .................................................................................. 13
   Tax Increment and Tax Increment Financing ............................................................... 13
   Consistency with City of Miami Gardens Comprehensive Development Master Plan .................................................. 14
   Impact of Redevelopment Efforts on Neighborhoods .................................................. 14
      Avoidance of Displacing Residents and Businesses ................................................... 15
      Traffic Conditions ...................................................................................................... 15
      Environmental Quality ............................................................................................... 15
      Availability of Community Facilities and Services .................................................. 16
      Effect on School Student Population ......................................................................... 16
   Safeguards to Ensure the Redevelopment Plan is Followed ......................................... 16
      Financial Accountability ............................................................................................. 17
      Implementation and Project/Program Accountability ................................................. 17
      Retention of Certain Powers by the City .................................................................... 18
      Time Certain and Severability .................................................................................. 18

SECTION III: EXISTING CONDITIONS ............................................................................. 19
   Overview and History of the Area .................................................................................. 19
   Economic Base ................................................................................................................. 21
Business Types ................................................................................................................... 21
Demographics Findings ................................................................................................. 21
Community Facilities, Schools, Religious Institutions, and Parks ......................... 23
Land Uses and Existing Zoning ....................................................................................... 24
  Land Use ............................................................................................................................ 24
  Existing Zoning ................................................................................................................... 25
Entertainment Overlay Zoning District .......................................................................... 29
  Vacant Properties ............................................................................................................... 29
Brownfields .......................................................................................................................... 35
Enterprise Zones ............................................................................................................... 36
Opportunity Zones .............................................................................................................. 37
Infrastructure ...................................................................................................................... 37

SECTION IV: PREVIOUS PLANS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION .......... 39
  NW 27th Avenue CRA Boundary Determination ......................................................... 39
  Finding of Necessity ........................................................................................................... 41
    Problems .............................................................................................................................. 41
    Needs ................................................................................................................................ 41
    Opportunities ...................................................................................................................... 41
  Community Meetings for the Community Redevelopment Plan .................................. 42

SECTION V: REDEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES ........................................... 43
  Purpose ................................................................................................................................. 43
  Economic Development Strategy ....................................................................................... 43
    Attraction of New Investments ........................................................................................... 44
    Stimulus Packages ............................................................................................................. 45
    Business Development ....................................................................................................... 46
  Housing Strategy ................................................................................................................ 47
  Infrastructure and Neighborhood Improvement Projects ................................................ 47
  Grants and Financing Programs .......................................................................................... 48
  Future Revenue Projections .............................................................................................. 48
  Base Year Amount ................................................................................................................ 49
Annual Growth Rate ................................................................. 49
New Development Scenario ...................................................... 49
Projection of TIF Revenue ......................................................... 50
Land Acquisition ........................................................................ 51
Planning and Pursuit of Land Use and Zoning Changes .......... 51
Community Policing ................................................................. 51
Administration ......................................................................... 52
Strategy Based on Location ....................................................... 52

SECTION VI: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ........................................ 54
Financing The CRA ................................................................. 54
Recommendations ................................................................. 55

SECTION VII: EXIT STRATEGY .................................................. 57
When is Redevelopment Complete? ........................................ 57
When Has the CRA Completed Its Assigned Task? .................. 57
Five (5) Year Plan Review ....................................................... 57
Termination of Tax Increment Payment .................................. 58

SECTION VIII: APPENDICES ..................................................... 59
Appendix A: Legal Description .................................................. 60
Appendix B: Florida Statutes .................................................... 63
Appendix C: Maps ..................................................................... 71
Appendix D: Site Photos .......................................................... 79
Appendix E: Tax Increment Financing Revenues Table ............. 84
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Limits of Development for Zoning Districts in the NW 27th Avenue CRA...........27
Table 2: Projection of TIF Revenues ................................................................................50

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Existing Land Uses within the CRA.................................................................20
Figure 2: Community Facilities .......................................................................................24
Figure 3: Miami Gardens Zoning Map ............................................................................26
Figure 4: Vacant Properties Map ....................................................................................31
Figure 5: Vacant Site Southeast End of NW 27th Avenue Corridor ...............................32
Figure 6: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens ..................32
Figure 7: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens ..................33
Figure 8: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens ..................33
Figure 9: Future Bridge Point Commerce Center .........................................................34
Figure 10: Future Development Site .............................................................................34
Figure 11: Gardens Promenade Under Construction .....................................................35
Figure 12: Brownfields Map ..........................................................................................36
Figure 13: CRA Transit Route Map ...............................................................................38
Figure 14: Miami Gardens Express Trolley Routes .......................................................38
Figure 15: NW 27th Avenue CRA Boundary with Streets Layout .................................40
SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND OVERALL GOALS

The Miami Gardens City Council approved a Finding of Necessity in 2014 and an update in 2016, both finding the NW 27th Avenue Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) to have conditions of blight including reduced economic health, high crime rates, extensive code violations, and unfavorable land development conditions. This designation is in accordance with the provisions defined in the Florida Statutes, Chapter 163, Part III, and authorizes the preparation of a Community Redevelopment Plan.

This Community Redevelopment Plan addresses the NW 27th Avenue CRA Study Area. The Study Area includes NW 27th Avenue between NW 215th Street (County Line Road) and SR 826 (Palmetto Expressway). It is bounded by NW 47th Avenue to the west and includes properties north of the Snake Creek Canal, excluding the residential area between NW 37th Avenue north of NW 207th Street and NW 27th Avenue. It also excludes Calder Race Course and Casino and the Hard Rock Stadium, which are adjacent to the CRA. The boundaries of the CRA reach within all four City Council districts. The legal description is provided in full in Appendix A.

The Plan identifies an opportunity for a catalyst project and actions to eliminate and prevent the spread of blighted conditions and develops programs to support redevelopment and the rehabilitation of unfavorable conditions.

The City of Miami Gardens has retained Keith & Schnars, P.A. to prepare the NW 27th Avenue Community Redevelopment Plan as required by law in the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, Florida Statutes, Chapter 163, Part III.

Public redevelopment activities expressly authorized by the Community Redevelopment Act and funded by tax increment financing must be in accordance with a redevelopment plan approved by the CRA and the City Council.
A finding of slum and blight has been determined based upon the contributing factors noted in Section III, many of which will proliferate if not addressed.

**Overall Goals**

The overall goals of the CRA and Redevelopment Plan are to increase the opportunities to build a destination that will attract visitors, create jobs, and support the local economy. While there are locations in the City, such as Hard Rock Stadium, that are already a destination, through a catalyst project, the CRA proposes to create a new destination; a cultural and performing arts environment.

Earlier actions leading toward the push for revitalization include the 2015 City Council approval of the Entertainment Overlay District (EOD), which is an overlay of the Planned Corridor Development District (PCD). The intent of the EOD is to further the economic development strategy and goals of the City; primarily to revitalize commercial centers by encouraging entertainment-driven uses. The PCD District implements the Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) Commerce land use category and allows for a wide range of commercial uses, select recreation and entertainment uses. The PCD and EOD cover many properties within the NW 27th Avenue CRA, and establishment of a CRA supports the revitalization economically.

Through the powers of a CRA, business recruitment and financial incentives further implement the EOD to bring in the desired entertainment uses to the corridor; the hotels, theaters, cultural centers, bars and restaurants. These uses enhance the public realm by creating a sense of place through outdoor dining and pleasing pedestrian experiences. New businesses also lead to the creation of new, local jobs for the residents.

The need for more market rate housing has been identified, desired in the form of multi-family condominiums and apartments. Mixed-use developments that incorporate housing can be instrumental in crime prevention by increasing safety through “eyes on the street” during the day as a result of the business activity, and by residents who are home in the evenings. The incidents of crime in the City are high compared to neighboring cities. The CRA seeks to address crime, poverty, and unemployment, all of which go hand in hand.
A brand or theme is also sought to be carried through the NW 27th Avenue commercial corridor through the CRA’s efforts. Establishing recognizable characteristics in an area to define it and support wayfinding for the out-of-town guests also adds to the experience of the destination. Cultural arts and entertainment venues attract guests from throughout the region, and it is the CRA’s goal to support the revitalization that will make the destination a reality.
SECTION II: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CRA

Creation

The City of Miami Gardens City Council adopted the Finding of Necessity for the establishment of a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) in 2014, followed by an addendum in 2016. Following the Finding of Necessity, upon adoption of the required resolution and ordinances, the Miami Gardens City Council may create the NW 27th Avenue Community Redevelopment Agency.

The City Council, by adoption of the Finding of Necessity, found the NW 27th Avenue Study Area to demonstrate factors and conditions indicative of slum and blight, as defined in the Florida Statutes, Section 163.340, and thus authorized the preparation of a Community Redevelopment Plan. The definitions in the Statutes can be found in Appendix B. The Plan identifies and develops activities to eliminate and prevent the proliferation of the blighted conditions, as well as programs to support redevelopment and the rehabilitation of unfavorable conditions in the Study Area.

Severability

Should any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this plan be declared to be invalid or unconstitutional by the courts, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Plan.

Powers

The CRA powers shall be in compliance with Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes. All powers provided by the governing statute shall be granted to the NW 27th Avenue CRA unless specifically prohibited by a future Interlocal Agreement that could be negotiated between the Miami Gardens City Council and the CRA. The powers enumerated in the Statutes can be found in Appendix B.
**Interlocal Agreement**

The Miami Gardens City Council may declare themselves as the governing body of the CRA. However, should the City Council elect to form a CRA governing board consisting of citizens who are appointed, they may assign terms and conditions as deemed appropriate regarding the governance and responsibilities of the CRA through an Interlocal Agreement. Such agreement shall be subordinate to Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes, and the officially adopted Community Redevelopment Plan. The Interlocal Agreement may be authorized between the Miami Gardens City Council and the CRA Board of Commissioners as they sit in the capacity of separate and distinct legal entities per Florida Statutes.

A separate Interlocal Agreement is necessary between the CRA and Miami-Dade County, under the home rule charter and Section 163.410, Florida Statutes, regarding the exercise of power.

**Authority to Undertake Redevelopment**

Preparation of the NW 27th Avenue CRA Plan has been authorized and directed by the City of Miami Gardens in accordance with the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, Florida Statutes, Chapter 163, Part III. The adoption of this plan, as well as any subsequent amendments or modifications, shall follow the procedures required by public hearings and adoption of necessary resolutions and ordinances.

Recognizing the need to prevent and eliminate the conditions of slum and blight within the community, the Act confers upon counties and municipalities the authority and powers to carry out “Community Redevelopment”. For the purposes of this Community Redevelopment Plan, the following definition, taken from the Florida Statutes shall apply.

Section 163.340(9), Florida Statutes:

“Community redevelopment” or “redevelopment” means undertakings, activities, or projects of a county, municipality, or community redevelopment agency in a community redevelopment area for the elimination and prevention of the development or spread of slums and blight, or for the reduction or prevention of
crime, or for the provision of affordable housing, whether for rent or for sale, to residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly, and may include slum clearance and redevelopment in a community redevelopment area or rehabilitation and revitalization of coastal resort and tourist areas that are deteriorating and economically distressed, or rehabilitation or conservation in a community redevelopment area, or any combination or part thereof, in accordance with a community redevelopment plan and may include the preparation of such a plan.

The ability of a county or municipality to utilize the authority granted under the Act is predicated upon adoption of a “Finding of Necessity” by the governing body. This finding must demonstrate that:

Section 163.355, Florida Statutes; Finding of necessity by county or municipality:

No county or municipality shall exercise the community redevelopment authority conferred by this part until after the governing body has adopted a resolution, supported by data and analysis, which makes a legislative finding that the conditions in the area meet the criteria described in s. 163.340(7) or (8). The resolution must state that:

(1) One or more slum or blighted areas, or one or more areas in which there is a shortage of housing affordable to residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly, exist in such county or municipality; and

(2) The rehabilitation, conservation, or redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of such area or areas, including, if appropriate, the development of housing which residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly, can afford, is necessary in the interest of the public health, safety, morals, or welfare of the residents of such county or municipality.

As previously discussed, the Miami Gardens City Council adopted a Finding of Necessity which demonstrated that conditions of slum and blight are present in the NW 27th Avenue Study Area, and determined the areas within its boundaries are in need of redevelopment.
The NW 27th Avenue CRA reserves for itself, its officer, employees and agents, all the powers, duties and responsibilities vested to it and provided by the Community Redevelopment Act to carry out the purposes and intent of this Redevelopment Plan, including the use of the power of eminent domain, if delegated to it by the City.

It is the intent of the City of Miami Gardens and the NW 27th Avenue CRA that when references are made in this Plan to the City or CRA in order to exercise power or authority granted by the Redevelopment Act, then such power and authority are deemed to have been granted and exercisable in connection with the implementation of this Plan.

This Plan contains provisions that encourage actions to be taken by the City of Miami Gardens, including the City Council and the divisions, departments, and boards of the City. All actions pursuant to the Plan are subject to City review.

**Community Redevelopment Plan**

Any public redevelopment activities authorized by the Community Redevelopment Act and funded through tax increment financing must be consistent with Section 163.360 of the Florida Statutes, a Redevelopment Plan that is approved by both the City Council and the CRA. The changing conditions of the community may call for modifications to the Plan. A Redevelopment Plan is a living document, therefore may be amended as deemed necessary, upon approval by the City Council and CRA.

**Tax Increment and Tax Increment Financing**

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is the CRA’s main source of funding, as provided for in Chapter 163, Part III of the Florida Statutes. All Florida CRAs are dependent taxing districts and therefore depend upon other taxing districts to make contributions to their trust fund. TIF funds are a result of the added value of property values within a CRA boundary after the base year has been set by the CRA’s governing body. It is important to note that this is not an additional tax; it is a portion of the existing property tax. The Miami Gardens NW 27th Avenue CRA is expected to be officially established in 2018. The taxable value of the properties in the base year (2018) is estimated at $473,889,245.
The revenue generated from TIF can be used for any activities and programs approved in a Community Redevelopment Plan. TIF funds can also cover administrative costs and repayment of revenue bond(s) debt service and fees. It is expected that as the CRA completes redevelopment projects, the future assessed property values will increase, which will then provide for more tax increment income. Significant tax increment revenue is not realized until redevelopment occurs.

The authority to issue revenue bonds is another tool of CRAs. Revenue bonds are a type of municipal bond for financing income-producing projects. In the case of a CRA, they are used to boost redevelopment and over time the CRA can use bonds to finance infrastructure and projects identified in the Redevelopment Plan. As long as it follows the proper approval process, the CRA can use annual funds to pay bond debt. Revenue bonds can accelerate the redevelopment process by funding more improvements.

**Consistency with City of Miami Gardens Comprehensive Development Master Plan**

The Community Redevelopment Plan must be in conformity with the City’s Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) per Florida Statutes. Amendments to the Redevelopment Plan are necessary to keep up with new or revised programs and projects.

A review of this Redevelopment Plan was performed by the Local Planning Agency, consisting of the City Council, and it meets the criteria to be in conformity with the City’s CDMP.

**Impact of Redevelopment Efforts on Neighborhoods**

The process of redevelopment may influence the residents and businesses within the redevelopment area as well as the surrounding area.
Avoidance of Displacing Residents and Businesses
While none of the projects suggested in this plan may prompt temporary relocation of businesses or residents who may be displaced during the redevelopment work. Should this occur, a relocation plan will be part of the project and action will be taken by the CRA. Section 163.370(2)(k) of the Florida Statutes provides for the authority to cover the costs of relocation and property loss compensation when displacement occurs. All efforts will be taken to prevent displacement, and those projects proposed for vacant properties will not cause displacement.

Traffic Conditions
Proposed improvements to the roads are encouraged for the improved safety and convenience of pedestrians and vehicles. During any construction activities related to the CRA projects, additional attention should be provided to reduce the inconvenience of those travelling within the CRA.

Environmental Quality
As identified in the Finding of Necessity, the residential area on the northwest quadrant of the Study Area has streets that do not drain properly. Stormwater infrastructure improvements are recommended to address the poor drainage. While this is a longer term project, the environmental quality of the area is expected to improve with redevelopment.

In addition, many of the code violations were for failure to maintain properties and that is recommended to be addressed through the CRA. Collaboration between the Code Enforcement Division, the CRA, and the property owners can work to bring properties into compliance. An example of a program that could be implemented includes lien amnesty in exchange for repairs, as well as financial assistance through grants and physical assistance through a volunteer group (“neighbor helping neighbor”). Improvements in the CRA help improve quality of life for the residents, and may open the door to more business.
Miami-Dade County reviews all new construction building permits to ensure they meet health standards. If an existing building is proposed for renovation, asbestos testing is required.

Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department standards have been upgraded and therefore most new construction and renovations will require upgrades to the water and sewer lines.

**Availability of Community Facilities and Services**

While the City Hall and Police Department are headquartered on NW 27th Avenue, there are few community facilities in the CRA boundary. A use that could impact the area both financially and culturally is an entertainment and performing arts center. Such a facility would support a variety of community functions and serve as a catalyst to drive additional redevelopment.

**Effect on School Student Population**

Projects to address street lighting and landscaping along roadways will improve street safety. The students who walk or ride a bicycle to school in the area can see a benefit with improved safety features for pedestrians and cyclists.

**Safeguards to Ensure the Redevelopment Plan is Followed**

The NW 27th Avenue CRA Board will meet as regularly as necessary to ensure that the work of redevelopment will be carried out pursuant to the plan. By-laws to govern the activities and administrative policies will be adopted by the CRA Board at a public meeting, and all meetings shall be subject to the Florida Sunshine Law.

Annual reports of the NW 27th Avenue CRA will include an overview of the CRA activities as endorsed by the Redevelopment Plan. The reports will be filed with Florida’s Auditor General’s Office, the City Council, and the City Clerk’s Office.

As it relates to any real property being transferred, the CRA shall ensure that all of the agreements, leases, deeds, contracts, and declarations of restrictions contain the necessary covenants and restrictions to carry out the goals and objectives of the Plan.
Financial Accountability
Annual audits require records to be carefully maintained throughout the year. An independent auditor shall be retained for the annual audits. Findings of the audit are presented publicly at a CRA Board meeting and transmitted to the State Auditor General’s Office by March 31 for the preceding fiscal year.

An Annual Report of the NW 27th Avenue CRA activities shall be presented along with the annual audit results. Both the Annual Audit and Annual Report shall be provided to the City Council and made available for viewing to the public, through the City Clerk’s Office. There shall be a legal notice in a newspaper of general circulation announcing the documents.

The NW 27th Avenue CRA shall comply with the State’s requirements for “Special Districts”, which includes filing required reports. The annual budget shall include progress reports reviewing the CRA’s accomplishments and progress toward new projects that year. Upon request for bonds or financing instruments, a progress report is required for review, including how projects and programs funded by the bonds would be furthered.

State laws require TIF funds to be kept in a separate Redevelopment Trust Fund.

Implementation and Project/Program Accountability
The programs identified for the NW 27th Avenue CRA shall have measureable objectives established and funding approved by the Board. This shall be done along with the adoption of the TIF budget each year.

To provide accountability to the public, public informational workshops may be held by the CRA. The public workshops may cover the status of programs and projects, strategic actions to address local issues, and may be used to collect feedback and ideas about redevelopment from citizens and business owners or property owners.
Retention of Certain Powers by the City
An Interlocal Agreement between the City of Miami Gardens and the NW 27th Avenue CRA shall provide the details of specific powers that the City will retain over the programs and projects within the CRA.

Time Certain and Severability
A maximum period of time shall be set for the redevelopment programs of the CRA in all contracts and financial references. The maximum commitment may be up to, but not exceeding, thirty (30) years from the date of this Redevelopment Plan adoption by the Miami Gardens City Council.
SECTION III: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Overview and History of the Area

The City of Miami Gardens is located in northern Miami-Dade County with the City of Miramar (in Broward County) to the north and the City of Opa-Locka to the south. Miami Gardens is a relatively new City, having incorporated on May 13, 2003. Prior to incorporation, the area was part of the Miami-Dade County Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA) and brought together multiple unincorporated neighborhoods: Andover, Bunche Park, Carol City, Lake Lucerne, Norland, Opa-Locka North, and Scott Lake.

Overall, the City is 19 square miles (12,800 acres) in area. The NW 27th Avenue CRA comprises of 1.63 square miles (1,046 acres), which is only 8.17% of City. The Carol City neighborhood is within the CRA boundaries. The CRA stretches along two corridors, in a "T-shape". NW 27th Avenue runs north-south from NW 215th Street (County Line Road) to State Road 826/Palmetto Expressway. NW 207th Street runs east-west from Florida’s Turnpike Expressway/State Road 91 to approximately NW 37th Avenue, and the CRA area extends west to NW 47th Avenue. Drainage canals run alongside several of the borders as well, serving as a barrier.

Although not within the CRA boundaries, both the Hard Rock Stadium (Miami Dolphins NFL football and University of Miami Hurricanes football) and Calder Casino & Race Course are adjacent to the NW 27th Avenue CRA. The two landmarks attract visitors who travel through the CRA’s NW 27th Avenue and NW 207th Street corridors.

The property within NW 27th Avenue CRA is characterized by a variety of lot sizes, diversity of ownership, infrastructure concerns (drainage, swales, sidewalks), and generally has property values lower than surrounding areas. There are several large vacant properties, notably a wooded area in the northwestern corner (NW 47th Avenue and 215th Street) and an area on the east side of the NW 27th Avenue corridor between the Wal-Mart and City Hall. A large portion of the latter is owned by the City of Miami.
Gardens and was once a part of a Development of Regional Impact, yet never developed. The site was recently removed from the DRI which opens it up for new opportunities.

The CRA includes mostly residential and commercial uses, with the commercial uses anchored along the corridors. The commercial uses include common neighborhood businesses such as hair salons, fast food, and grocery stores. Most are no more than two stories tall. There is an even mix of businesses in stand-alone buildings and those within multi-tenant plazas. The residential uses are predominantly one-story single family homes and some two and three-story apartments.

![Figure 1: Existing Land Uses within the CRA](source)

The Findings of Necessity (FON) to establish the CRA was approved by the City Council in 2014, and in 2016 an addendum was approved. The FON identified that one of the
greatest opportunities within the CRA is with the vacant land, covering 22% of the CRA area. A few of the vacant sites have recently attracted redevelopment, bringing a new grocery store and fitness center to the corridor and major redevelopment of the former “Carol Mart” property into “Gardens Promenade” Shopping Center.

**Economic Base**

**Business Types**
The CRA area is home to common commercial businesses; mostly personal needs such as laundry and beauty supply shops, auto repair and gas stations, but also some larger commercial businesses such as a chain grocery store, a big box retailer, and a large chain fitness studio. There are many fast food and casual sit-down restaurants along the corridor as well.

**Demographics Findings**
The Finding of Necessity report was first completed in 2014, and subsequently updated two years later. The June 2016 report found the following:

- Educational attainment in the City of Miami Gardens is slightly higher than that of Miami-Dade County. However, the overall unemployment rates are at 16.6% compared to Miami-Dade County’s rate of 11.2%. Among the 20-24 year old residents, the gap is greater at 30.5% unemployment in the City compared to 17% in the County.

- The median household income for the CRA is $43,375. This is lower than the Miami-Dade County median income of $50,654.

- Twenty-one percent of the residents in the City of Miami Garden live below the poverty level, compared to 19.1% in Miami-Dade County. Based on similar demographic and economic information, it is reasonable to assume that the same contrast exists within the NW 27th Avenue CRA.
  
  o The distribution of race in the CRA is consistent with the City as a whole:
    o Black (79.3%)
The majority of the structures (68%) in the NW 27th Avenue CRA were constructed between 1950 and 1980. Many are past their useful life of 30 years and lack modern energy efficient construction. The taxable values of properties within the City of Miami Gardens are below those of the County.

The frontage of many properties on the commercial corridors was reduced when the roadways were widened, thus reducing their access and individual redevelopment potential.

Home occupancy in the NW 27th Avenue CRA is at 86% compared to 94% in the City as a whole. Data also shows a higher number of persons per household (3.75) compared to the rate of 2.9 in Miami-Dade County.

Total incidents of crime in the City of Miami Gardens is nearly double that of the adjacent municipality, Miramar. As reported in the Finding of Necessity, in 2012, there were 103.06 crimes per 1,000 persons in Miami Gardens, 55.97 in Miramar, and 84.4 in Miami-Dade County.

An update to this data shows crime statistics in Miami Gardens have improved, but are still well above neighboring Miramar and Miami-Dade County. In 2016, there were 77.4 crimes per 1,000 persons in Miami Gardens, 45.5 in Miramar, and 41.2 in Miami-Dade County.\(^1\)

Code violation data for junk and trash within the CRA have a disproportionate share as compared to the City as a whole, especially since the CRA comprises

\(^1\) FBI Crime Statistics 2016 and FDLE 2016
only 8.17% of the area. In addition, during preparation of the Finding of Necessity addendum in 2016, 6 unsafe structures were identified in the CRA (6% of the 97 unsafe structures Citywide). Since then, possibly as a result of recent hurricanes in South Florida, as of March 2018, the count climbed to 15 unsafe structures located in the CRA boundary, 5 of which were commercial properties.

- Stormwater improvements in the northwest quadrant of the NW 27th Avenue CRA would support the residential properties and streets that do not drain properly.

- The boundaries coincide with the “Carol City Area Brownfield” and the “NW 27th Avenue Greenpowerment Zone”, both designated under the Florida Brownfield Redevelopment Act.

- The Central Miami-Dade Enterprise Zone is within most of the NW 27th Avenue CRA, further demonstrating the need to attract new businesses. The State’s Enterprise Zone Program expired on December 31, 2015; however, Miami-Dade County continues to have business incentive funds and impact fee reimbursements for qualifying businesses within the original designated area.

- In 2018, four of the six Census tracts within the CRA boundaries are certified in the new Florida Opportunity Zone program, which provides tax incentives for job creators and funding.

A finding of slum blight has been determined based upon the contributing factors noted above, many of which will proliferate if not addressed.

**Community Facilities, Schools, Religious Institutions, and Parks**

Within the CRA are seven (7) public schools, four (4) religious institutions, and seven (7) community facilities which include parks and government services. The map in Figure 2 below shows their locations. The full size map is located in Appendix C.
Land Uses and Existing Zoning

Land Use

The City of Miami Gardens adopted Land Use Plan designates the majority of the NW 27th Avenue CRA as Commerce. The area of the Commerce designation on the Future Land Use Map can be described as along the transportation corridors and the industrial area. Most of the property designated Commerce includes uses already established prior to the City’s incorporation and map designation, but there is also a large vacant area in the northwest quadrant of the city. The Comprehensive Development Master Plan permits a mix of non-residential and residential uses in the Commerce category. Residential density may range from 25 to 50 dwelling units per acre.

The balance of the NW 27th Avenue CRA is designated Neighborhood on the Future Land Use Map which is predominantly single family residential, but also includes mixed-use, low to medium density residential and small scale neighborhood commercial. Residential densities, ranging from up to 6 to up to 50 dwelling units per acre, are permitted by the Comprehensive Development Master Plan in the area designated Neighborhood.
The Future Land Use Element of the 2006 Comprehensive Development Master Plan called out a special designation, the “NW 27th Avenue Corridor Special Area” which included the former Carol City shopping center. Carol City shopping center, a 145-acre site on the southwest quadrant of the intersection of NW 183rd Street and NW 27th Avenue was recognized in the Comprehensive Development Master Plan as a future “Town Center Area” in the NW 27th Avenue Corridor Special Area.

Following through on plan expectations, the 2016 update of the Comprehensive Development Master Plan now recognizes the NW 27th Avenue Corridor as part of the CRA, and the former Carol City / Town Center Area is currently under redevelopment to become Gardens Promenade. Policy 1.5.13 of the Future Land Use Element states that the “NW 27th Avenue Commerce area’s revitalization as the City’s central boulevard should be encouraged through a mixture of new commercial and multiple family development as well as redevelopment of existing commercial uses”. Redevelopment efforts in the NW 27th Avenue Corridor through the CRA would further implement the Comprehensive Development Master Plan.

**Existing Zoning**

The classifications shown on the Zoning map (see Figure 3) follow the adopted Land Use designations. A full-size page of the City of Miami Gardens Official Zoning Map is found in Appendix C. The transportation corridors are primarily designated PCD-Planned Corridor Development. The residential zoning districts within the Study Area are R-1 (Single Family), R-2 (Two Family), and R-15, 25 and 50 (Multi-Family). The non-residential designations include: NC (Neighborhood Commercial), I-1 (Light Industrial), OF (Office) and GP, (Government Property). There is also an EO (Entertainment Overlay) district, covering a large amount of the NW 27th Avenue area by City Hall and the Police headquarters.

The Land Development Code, Section 34-342, outlines the development standards and limits for each of the zoning districts, summarized in Table 1.
The Planned Corridor Development and Neighborhood Commercial districts, along with the Entertainment Overlay, all have design standards in addition to the zoning district development standards.

Figure 3: Miami Gardens Zoning Map

Source: (City of Miami Gardens, 2018)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zoning District</th>
<th>Types of Uses Permitted</th>
<th>Principal Building Height Limit</th>
<th>Maximum Density in dwelling units per acre (du/ac) and/or Floor Area Ratio (FAR)</th>
<th>Minimum Lot Area and Frontage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCD Planned Corridor Development</td>
<td>Multiple-family residential dwellings, a wide range of commercial uses, select recreation and entertainment uses, mixed residential and commercial uses, select public and institutional uses, and places of assembly.</td>
<td>2 stories by right; 6 stories with incentive bonuses.</td>
<td>16 du/ac by right; 55 du/ac with incentive bonuses. 0.5 FAR by right; 1.5 FAR with incentive bonuses.</td>
<td>10,000 sq. ft. 150 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EO Entertainment Overlay</td>
<td>Large-scale development or entertainment driven uses including, but not limited to, hotels, theaters, cultural centers, indoor recreation facilities, alcoholic beverages uses, commercial activities, with the purpose of attracting customers and visitors from local, regional, national, and international areas.</td>
<td>15 stories (lots 10 acres or more); 10 stories (all other properties)</td>
<td>No residential density. 0.75 FAR for a single use; 3.0 FAR for mixed use (lots 10 acres or more); 0.5 FAR for a single use; 3.0 FAR for mixed-use (all other properties)</td>
<td>10,000 sq. ft. 150 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC Neighborhood Commercial and OF Office</td>
<td>Commercial uses, select public and institutional uses, select recreation and entertainment uses, and places of assembly.</td>
<td>35 ft./2 stories</td>
<td>No residential density. 0.50 FAR</td>
<td>5,000 sq. ft. 50 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP Government Property</td>
<td>Public and institutional uses.</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-1 Industrial, Light</td>
<td>A wide range of land uses including research, assembly, fabrication, manufacturing, repair, service, retail, entertainment, and places of assembly.</td>
<td>55 ft.</td>
<td>No residential density. 0.50 FAR</td>
<td>10,000 sq. ft. 125 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-1</td>
<td>One-family detached dwelling units at low densities, essential services and facilities, and select public and institutional uses.</td>
<td>35 ft./2 stories</td>
<td>Up to 6 du/ac</td>
<td>7,500 sq. ft. (net) 75 ft. frontage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning District</td>
<td>Types of Uses Permitted</td>
<td>Principal Building Height Limit</td>
<td>Maximum Density in dwelling units per acre (du/ac) and/or Floor Area Ratio (FAR)</td>
<td>Minimum Lot Area and Frontage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-2</td>
<td>One-family detached and two-family dwellings at low-medium densities, essential services and facilities, and select public and institutional uses.</td>
<td>40 ft. / 3 stories</td>
<td>Up to 15 du/ac</td>
<td>2,200 sq. ft. (interior lot); 3,700 sq. ft. (corner and end lots); 96 ft. (block); 22 ft. (individual interior lot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-15</td>
<td>One-family attached and detached, two-family and multiple-family dwellings at low-medium densities, essential services and facilities, and select public and institutional uses.</td>
<td>40 ft. / 3 stories</td>
<td>Up to 15 du/ac</td>
<td>Same as R-2 for townhouses. Multi-family: 10,000 sq. ft. (net) 100 ft. frontage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-25</td>
<td>Single-family attached and multifamily dwellings at medium densities, essential services and facilities, and select public and institutional uses. Also permits single-family detached and two-family dwellings.</td>
<td>40 ft. / 3 stories (townhouses); 50 ft. / 4 stories (multi-family)</td>
<td>Up to 15 du/ac (townhouses); Up to 25 du/ac (multi-family)</td>
<td>Same as R-2 for townhouses. Multi-family: 10,000 sq. ft. (net) 100 ft. frontage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-50</td>
<td>Single-family attached and multifamily dwellings at medium-high densities, related essential services and facilities, and select public and institutional uses. Also permits single-family detached and two-family dwellings.</td>
<td>40 ft. / 3 stories (townhouses); 120 ft. / 10 stories (multi-family)</td>
<td>Up to 15 du/ac (townhouses); Up to 50 du/ac (multi-family)</td>
<td>Same as R-2 for townhouses. Multi-family: 10,000 sq. ft. (net) 100 ft. frontage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: (Keith & Schnars)
Entertainment Overlay Zoning District

The Entertainment Overlay Zoning district was adopted in 2015, and it is in addition to the base Planned Corridor Development (PCD) Zoning District. The purpose of the Entertainment Overlay (EO) Zoning District is to encourage lively urban development that promotes and sustains large scale development of entertainment driven uses (e.g., hotels, theaters, cultural centers, indoor recreation facilities, alcoholic beverage uses, restaurants and commercial activities) while creating a sense of place presently lacking in this area. The EO District will foster high quality businesses and embrace the public realm as it provides for outdoor dining, pedestrian circulation, and parking guidelines. The Entertainment Overlay District includes regulations pertaining to restaurants, bars, and night clubs with alcoholic beverage sales, music and entertainment. In addition, there are requirements for the properties 15 acres and greater to construct a 10 foot wide sidewalk.

The PCD applies to land abutting multiple corridors, including NW 27th Avenue.

The intent of the PCD district is to transform the city's major transportation corridors into attractive and vibrant places, consistent with the principles of transit-oriented development (TOD) in order to capitalize on the high level of regional bus transit serving the corridors. Since the majority of new development and redevelopment within the city will arguably occur within the PCD, sustainable building practices should prevail. It is further intended that the intense corridor development protect and enhance the established single-family residential neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor that comprise the majority of the city's urban fabric.

Vacant Properties

Within the CRA boundaries, there are 33 parcels which are currently vacant, covering approximately 240 acres. This accounts for almost 22% of the land within the CRA. Figure 4 shows the vacant properties in the CRA.

There are several large vacant properties within the CRA. Of note are a wooded area in the northwestern corner (NW 47th Avenue and 215th Street), (Figure 5) zoned I-1, as well as an area on the east side of the NW 27th Avenue corridor centered around NW 189th.
Street near City Hall (Figures 6-8); a large portion of the latter is owned by the City of Miami Gardens. This vacant site is within several zoning districts (PCD, R-25, R-50, and R-1), and within the Entertainment Overlay.

Vacant properties have heightened potential for redevelopment due to not having to displace any residents or businesses and without the need for demolition; projects can get started sooner, saving time and money.
Figure 4: Vacant Properties Map

City of Miami Gardens
Vacant Properties within CRA Boundary

Legend
- Vacant Properties
- CRA Boundary
- Miami Gardens City Limits

Vacant Properties within CRA Boundary

Source: (Keith & Schnars)
Figure 5: Vacant Site Southeast End of NW 27th Avenue Corridor

Source: (Keith & Schnars)

Figure 6: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens

Source: (Keith & Schnars)
Figure 7: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens

Source: (Keith & Schnars)

Figure 8: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens

Source: (Keith & Schnars)
Figure 9: Future Bridge Point Commerce Center

Source: (Keith & Schnars)

Figure 10: Future Development Site

Source: (Keith & Schnars)
Brownfields

The goal of the Brownfield Redevelopment Act is to reduce health and environmental hazards and create incentives to clean up contamination and promote redevelopment of abandoned or underutilized industrial sites. Sites may contain actual or perceived contamination to be eligible for designation.

The NW 27\textsuperscript{th} Avenue CRA overlaps with a designated Brownfield known as the “Carol City Area” (ID: BF139902000, Federal Code: 025). This includes the large undeveloped vacant site in the northwest corner of the CRA, the former “Surfside Dump”, but it does not include the other large vacant properties previously discussed.

In addition to the Carol City Area Brownfield, there is a “NW 27\textsuperscript{th} Avenue Corridor Greenpowerment Zone” Brownfield Area (ID: BF131304000). This zone contains approximately 47 acres and is located on the east side of NW 27\textsuperscript{th} Avenue, behind the City Hall property, starting just north of the intersection with NW 191\textsuperscript{st} Street to south of NW 187\textsuperscript{th} Street. This property was also within a designated Enterprise Zone, further described below. The southernmost seven acres of this Greenpowerment Zone have
already been developed into “Pelican Cove Apartments”. Both zones can be located on the map in Figure 12.

Through the Florida Brownfields Redevelopment Program, Brownfield designations offer redevelopment incentives such as tax credits, loan guarantees, and refunds for job creation.

**Enterprise Zones**

Enterprise Zones were special areas created based on studies of income and employment that met State requirements. The Florida Enterprise Zone Program expired in 2015; however, qualifying businesses in the areas designated on the original Enterprise Zone maps may still apply to Miami-Dade County for incentives. Incentives are limited to reimbursement of impact fees and water and sewer fees, upon demonstration of specific job-creation requirements. The majority of the NW 27th Avenue corridor is within one of the designated Enterprise Zones.
Opportunity Zones

The Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 established an Opportunity Zones program which established a number of Census tracts within the State of Florida that qualify based on income. The CRA boundary is within four of the Census tracts (94.00, 99.04, 100.01, and 100.11) that are certified in the program. Businesses which create jobs in the Opportunity Zones qualify for tax incentives, including a temporary deferral on capital gains taxes, when investors reinvest the gains in the Opportunity Zones. Section 163.345 of the Florida Statutes encourages private enterprise and redevelopment by private entities. Together with Opportunity Zones, the CRA has tools to stimulate job growth to meet the goals. The area east of NW 27th Avenue, south of the canal are not included.

Infrastructure

Boundaries of the NW 27th Avenue CRA follow two major corridors in the City, NW 27th Avenue and NW 207th Street. NW 27th Avenue is in a TCMA, Transportation Concurrency Management Area, meeting the level of service through access to alternative modes of travel.

One alternative mode is transit. The CRA and entire City is served by Miami-Dade County Transit. As illustrated in Figure 13, Routes 297, 27, 183, 95, 99, and 75 serve the properties in the CRA.

In addition to the County’s system, there is a Miami Gardens Express Trolley that features two routes (see Figure 14). Both routes serve the properties in the CRA.
Figure 13: CRA Transit Route Map

Source: (Keith & Schnars)

Figure 14: Miami Gardens Express Trolley Routes

Source: (City of Miami Gardens)
SECTION IV: PREVIOUS PLANS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NW 27th Avenue CRA Boundary Determination

The 2013 Boundary Determination Report documented the exploration of three distinct study areas: the SR 7 / US 441 Corridor Study Area, the SR 826 Study Area, and the NW 27th Avenue Study Area. The report concluded that each of the areas would be able to support itself as sub-districts within one CRA District. The recommendations were:

- To consider all three areas as one CRA District;
- To consider only the NW 27th Avenue Area and the SR 7/US 441 Area as two separate sub-districts; or
- To consider only the NW 27th Avenue Area.

The chosen study area was NW 27th Avenue, which moved on to a Finding of Necessity Analysis.
Figure 15: NW 27th Avenue CRA Boundary with Streets Layout

Source: (Keith & Schnars)
Finding of Necessity

A Finding of Necessity analysis was approved in April 2014 and later updated via a 2016 addendum. The following Problems, Needs, and Opportunities were identified in the Finding of Necessity. The problems noted are factors of “blight”, which qualify the area for establishment as a CRA under Florida Statutes.

Problems

- High Crime Rates
- High Rates of Poverty and Unemployment
- Majority of Structures are over 30 years old; Site and Structure Deterioration
- High Vacancy Rates
- Faulty Lot Layout in Relation to Size, Adequacy, Accessibility, or Usefulness
- Narrow Lot Frontage along NW 27th Avenue Corridor
- Extensive Code Violations
- Diversity of Property Ownership

Needs

- Economic Development
- Social Development
- Catalyst Projects to Promote Reinvestment
- Improved Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Residents
- Housing Affordable to Residents with Low or Moderate Income, Including Seniors

Opportunities

- Public-Private Partnerships
- Homeowner Rehabilitation Program
- Mortgage Subsidies and Second Mortgage Assistance Program
- Commercial Property Improvement Program
- Land Banking and Site Assembly Program
- Economic Development Package
Signage, Entry Features, Public Area, and Landscaping Projects
Infrastructure Improvement Projects
Community Policing Innovations
Recreation and Community Facilities Projects
Incentives Available Through Brownfield Redevelopment Program

Community Meetings for the Community Redevelopment Plan

On Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at Miami Gardens City Hall, the City’s consultants held a community involvement meeting to inform the community of the City of Miami Gardens’ CRA Plan project and to get feedback and comments. The following items were discussed during the meeting:

- What is a CRA?
- What has been done so far?
- What is a Redevelopment Plan?
- What can be funded by a CRA?
- A catalyst project: Performing Arts Center
- Project website: www.grommiamigardens.com
- Next Steps

Upon completion of the presentation, attendees provided feedback on the project. The project team also presented at a Town Hall Meeting on March 10, 2018. At both meetings, feedback included:

- Introduction of cultural venue will elevate the area
- Need for jobs
- Desire for more shopping and eating options
- Concerns about gentrification
SECTION V: REDEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Purpose
The major redevelopment strategies, projects, and programs proposed for the NW 27th Avenue CRA shall be presented here. The ideas presented here will require further review and consideration prior to implementation to determine the appropriateness in each case.

Economic Development Strategy
The use of a catalyst project to kick off the redevelopment in the CRA is recommended to reveal the potential in the area as well as boost the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenue.

Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs) are financed based upon a method known as Tax Increment Financing (TIF). It is a unique tool available to cities and counties for the redevelopment of urban areas. It is used to leverage public funds to promote private sector activity. Property values in a CRA are capped or frozen at the assessed value in a base year, the year when a CRA is created. Thereafter, certain tax revenues due to increases in property value in excess of the base year value are deposited into the CRA Trust Fund and can only be spent in the redevelopment area².

The location which may best support a catalyst project, both financially and in an interest of time, is the 40-acre site owned by the City of Miami Gardens situated near City Hall on the east side of NW 27th Avenue, centered at NW 189th Street (Folio ID: 34-2103-001-0710). The site is designated as the NW 27th Avenue Corridor Greenpowerment Zone, which is eligible for the Florida Brownfields Redevelopment Program’s financial incentives.

Catalyst projects are just that: a stimulus to change; one major change that can attract other investments. In addition, the taxable value of a catalyst project will significantly boost

² Miami-Dade County, Office of Management and Budget
the TIF revenues after construction is complete and they are reassessed by the Property Appraiser. Once the funds start increasing, more sizeable investments can be made within the CRA.

The property referenced above, ideal for development into an entertainment and performing arts center, is currently non-taxable since it is owned by the City of Miami Gardens. There are arrangements where government-owned property is developed and the use is owned or operated by a for-profit entity, causing the property to be ineligible for tax-exempt status. Therefore ownership and operational arrangements should be considered by the CRA and City in regards to whether development of the site will contribute to the TIF revenues through taxes.

**Attraction of New Investments**

The CRA should take steps to attract new commercial activity. Promotion of the area by marketing the vacant properties (land, as well as un-occupied buildings) to recruit businesses should be considered to show willingness to build up the community. A regular e-mail blast to the businesses and residents who opt-in can help to improve the image of the area and attract new businesses and residents.

Marketing campaigns can be launched to encourage new businesses and CRA Board Members and staff can attend Miami-Dade Beacon Council meetings and conferences such as the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC). The annual ICSC conferences provide a platform for retail industry leaders to introduce themselves to new markets, represented by local government staff and officials, as well as for the local governments to announce they are open to new businesses.

Encouragement of new businesses to employ people who reside within the CRA boundary will work to stimulate the local economy. Section 163.345 of the Florida Statute encourages private enterprise and redevelopment by private entities within a CRA. Job creation and preference to hiring of local residents, while not actually a requirement of
CRAs, is a strategy that would help to reduce the high rate of unemployment for residents in the area. In addition, it would:

- Reduce incidence of poverty for some of the area residents;
- Provide some disposable income for some the area residents;
- Increase the demand for goods and services in the area, boosting the local market, and further attracting more new retailers and services providers;
- Increase taxable values due to new and upgraded facilities in the area; and
- Increase taxable values to existing commercial properties as a factor of the demand for land in the CRA.

**Stimulus Packages**

Often CRAs will offer grants for businesses in order to incentivize their establishment or relocation into the CRA. Grants to redesign their façade (including impact windows for safety) or new signage are also common. It is important that the amount of a grant or cash incentive provided does not exceed the projected tax increment for that end result. They may be awarded as a flat dollar amount or based on a percentage of the total project cost, where the business still has to contribute, but the CRA reduces the burden.

The incentives included shall be carefully considered and only those which create long-term impact on the area should be chosen. This includes new construction or renovation, infrastructure improvements, or job training/business skill education. Examples of incentive programs include:

- Funds for new construction or renovations to the existing buildings (repair, façade, signage, accessibility);
- Funds for relocation of a business from another area into the CRA;
- Acquisition of land;
- Removal of facilities with a blighting influence on the surrounding area;
- Payment of costs to prepare the land for redevelopment, including relocation of site occupants within or outside the CRA; and
- Career training programs.
Program establishment must be approved by the CRA Board, but these programs can be administered through the CRA Director and staff member(s).

Plans to attract new businesses and new jobs, to reduce unemployment in the area, and increase the taxable value of the buildings will help to make the CRA successful. These are measurable items that can be used to gauge the success over time.

**Business Development**

Programs should be explored that will assist new businesses in establishing themselves if they choose to locate in the CRA. In addition, people who reside in the CRA can be assisted by these programs if they plan to start a business or learn a new skill for a new career. Again, supporting the residents is helpful to reduce the unemployment rate and in turn, support the businesses in the CRA. Among incentives to consider are those stimulus packages mentioned above. The Opportunity Zone program administered by the State of Florida also provides tax incentives for job creation. A large area within the CRA boundary is in a designated Opportunity Zone. More information is provided in Section III of this Plan.

Aside from opening the door for the business owners and entrepreneurs to come to the NW 27th Avenue CRA, the CRA can strategically recruit business types that would meet the needs of the local market.

Neighborhood businesses operated by local residents help to keep the profits in the local area. There are many specialty businesses that could be determined to have potential to thrive in the area, determined by market factors and sales data. Targeted marketing to recruit specific types of businesses is a way to develop more successful local economy.

Another strategy is to develop a theme for the NW 27th Avenue Corridor, and market the theme to attract businesses that fill the niche. An opportunity exists due to the proximity of the Hard Rock Stadium to the CRA; visitors can be attracted to NW 27th Avenue before and after attending the events at the stadium.
Measurable goals, such as a targeted number of new businesses or jobs created per year, can be set.

**Housing Strategy**

The redevelopment activities are not expected to displace any residents; temporarily or permanently. There are currently 3,412 residential units in the CRA and this is in balance with the existing commercial uses and vacant commercially-zoned properties. In addition, most redevelopment activities will take place along the major corridors which are expected to be predominantly commercial. Therefore this CRA is not considered to have a shortage of housing. However, there is a deficiency of market-rate housing in the CRA. Any new housing is encouraged to be sold or rented at market-rate.

However, due to the high incidence of code violations on the existing housing stock, there is need for a strategy to remedy that. Property owners hold the responsibility for property maintenance, but often do not have the resources to do so. The CRA, through funds, donations, and recruitment of volunteers, could provide the support needed to help those residential property owners come into compliance with the Code.

Addressing code violations can start with an encouragement campaign that educates residents about what is required to avoid violations and penalties. The assistance program should be utilized before enforcement escalates to the accrual of fines.

Eliminating code violations with an educational program is a measurable goal, and the assistance program can be limited to address a set percentage of properties or until the residential code violations drop to a more manageable number. Violations are tied to lower property values, therefore reducing them will work to bring the tax base up.

**Infrastructure and Neighborhood Improvement Projects**

The Vista Verde community is an area in the northwest quadrant of the NW 27th Avenue CRA that may benefit from stormwater/drainage improvements, based on the Finding of Necessity. The City’s Public Works Department has since secured funds for the first
phase, but to complete the necessary improvements, the remaining design and construction is to be funded through grant and Stormwater Assessment Funds, pending budget approvals. In the event of a shortfall, with CRA Board approval, the TIF revenues could be utilized for these neighborhood improvements in future years.

The sidewalks in the Vista Verde area may also benefit from funding for repairs, although not an immediate need, according to the City’s Public Works Department. The lifetime of the CRA is thirty (30) years; therefore, this is a project that should be re-evaluated during the regular CRA Plan updates.

The City’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan identifies bicycle and pedestrian facilities in need of attention as well as locations where the residents can benefit from new facilities. The regular updates of this plan are also recommended to be considered when looking at infrastructure and neighborhood improvements in the long-term horizon of the CRA.

Properties in the CRA area along NW 27th Avenue from NW 199th Street to NW 215th Street adjacent to the Hard Rock Stadium are currently separated from the stadium grounds by a fence. The fence is in disrepair and there is interest to replace the fence with a decorative wall for more privacy. As an improvement project, the decorative wall could be considered to be paid for by the CRA.

Grants and Financing Programs

CRAs are typically funded through the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF). This analysis addresses the projections of TIF to support financing of the activities of the CRA.

Future Revenue Projections

The estimate of the future revenues is based on two factors:

- An annual growth rate of the Taxable Value (estimated for this study at 2% per year); and
- Increased Taxable Value from new development
**Base Year Amount**
Examination of the Base Year amount of the proposed CRA area begins with a review of the Property Appraiser data for the parcels located in the boundaries. These properties have a current Taxable Value of $473,889,245 based on Property Appraiser data. When the Trust Fund for the proposed new CRA boundaries is established, the current Taxable Value, at that time, will be the Base Year for the CRA.

**Annual Growth Rate**
The growth rate for existing properties is established for this study at 2% per year. This rate reflects the increase in value of properties that are already developed. Although this rate is relatively low, it is appropriate for planning purposes in order to avoid projecting revenue at an excessive rate.

**New Development Scenario**
The most significant increase in Taxable Value will occur from new development projects in the designated boundaries. The new development projects listed below were provided by the City of Miami Gardens based on applications for Building Permits and Site Plans.

- Bridge Point Commerce Center
- Jessie Trice Health Center
- 24 Hour Fitness
- Murphy Gas Station
- Miami Gardens Apartments
- Miami Gardens Retail
- Hotel
- Miami Gardens Culinary Center
- Gardens Promenade
- 7-Eleven
- Future Development Site
- Princeton Park Townhomes
- Miami Gardens Performing Arts Center
- Redevelopment of 40 Acre Site

Estimates of Taxable Value were derived from examination of similar properties in the area and the value placed on those properties by the Property Appraiser’s Office. In addition, there are smaller properties (residential and commercial) that are likely to develop during the study time frame. An assumption of additions of single parcels has also been included in the projections.
Projection of TIF Revenue

TIF is generated based on an increase in Taxable Value with the Ad Valorem rates of the City and County applied against this value. The Tax Rate for this study is 11.6032 mills (Miami Gardens of 6.9363 and Miami-Dade County of 4.6669). Additionally, the originating jurisdictions retain 5% of the increased taxes for Administrative purposes. The projections of TIF are illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2: Projection of TIF Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY</th>
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<th>Increment</th>
<th>TIF</th>
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</table>

Source: (PMG Associates, Inc.)
The CRA is predicted to generate revenue from TIF of approximately $233,000 in the first year. TIF revenues will increase to over $1 million annually in year 4 of the CRA. In the 30 years lifetime of the CRA, over $93.8 million may be raised to complete the needs of the community. This estimate is based on current market conditions, and may change.

The CRA can also leverage funds through grants and other funding programs to achieve a more vigorous program. A public-private partnership may be sought to develop the remaining undeveloped property in the “NW 27th Avenue Corridor Greenpowerment Zone” utilizing the incentives under the Florida Brownfields Redevelopment Act.

**Land Acquisition**

The acquisition of land within the CRA is a tool that could help to support the overall goals and activities of the CRA. Property owned by the CRA can be marketed to encourage development or redevelopment into the uses that are desired. New development will increase the tax base, create jobs, and support the livability of the area. At this time, the City owns significant amount of land in the CRA, which allows for the control of how it is developed. It is not recommended for the CRA to acquire or liquidate any properties at this time.

**Planning and Pursuit of Land Use and Zoning Changes**

Due to the recently added Entertainment Overlay and Planned Corridor Development Districts, the zoning districts are not proposed for any changes. However, the application of the mixed-use, commercial, residential, and entertainment uses permitted in the PCD and EO should be pursued.

**Community Policing**

Community Policing goes beyond the role of the local law enforcement agency and involves the local government, businesses, community members, nonprofit service providers, and even the media. It is a partnership to go beyond traditional police surveillance and bring in a more grassroots approach. Outreach to the problem areas and
targeted approach to reduction of specific type of crime are examples. Foot and bicycle patrols are also tactics used by the local law enforcement agencies in community policing.

Crime rates have been documented to be higher in Miami Gardens than surrounding communities. CRAs can be powerful in the fight against criminal activity through funding a community policing program. With crime rates high, attracting the right investors will be challenging. Therefore, many efforts are needed to reduce crime. A community policing approach should be implemented within the CRA involving business owners, City code enforcement staff, and school personnel. CRA funds could assist with the costs of equipment for surveillance and monitoring, school resource officers, crime prevention equipment, and to support the City’s code enforcement efforts related to community policing, per Section 163.387, Florida Statutes.

**Administration**

CRAs typically have a CRA Director as the main staff member, and may be supported by additional part-time or full-time staff. The staffing and financing of the CRA may initially start with City staff and City funds, but an Interlocal agreement should be made for an annual reimbursement to cover the City’s investments. Over time, CRA studies, projects, and plans will require occasional contracting with professional planners, engineers, and event coordinators. These contracts shall comply with all applicable policies of the CRA or its governing body.

**Strategy Based on Location**

Adjacent to the CRA boundaries is the Hard Rock Stadium, utilized for home football games by the Miami Dolphins and University of Miami Hurricanes, as well as numerous concerts and special events year-round. The National Football League’s Super Bowl LIV (54) will be played here in 2020, and the Capital One Orange Bowl, while played at this venue annually, will also host the College Football Playoff Semifinal game here in 2018, 2021 and 2024. In addition, the Miami Open tennis tournament is relocating its annual event to the Hard Rock Stadium in March 2019. These upcoming events are critical to the area, and the opportunity to collect tourist dollars in the corridor are increased surrounding
these events. While that is a reason to focus initial improvements along the NW 27th Avenue Corridor, care should be taken to not take on a project that would redirect traffic during peak events such as Super Bowl LIV.
SECTION VI: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Financing The CRA

A table with the proposed base year tax base along with annual incremental tax revenues that will serve as base funding for the CRA is included in Appendix E.

Identification of economic development projects and programs to consider include Catalyst Projects, as discussed in Section V, Redevelopment Strategies, to provide a stimulus for future redevelopment projects. Suggestions for projects from a 2015 community meeting when preparing the Finding of Necessity include:

- Entertainment Center
- Hotel
- Quality Restaurants
- Quality Retail
- Cultural / Arts Center
- Increased Public Safety
- Additional Park Opportunities
- Landscaping / Street Lights
- Improved Public Transportation
- Banquet Hall
- Residential Mixed Use

After identifying the NW 27th Avenue Corridor boundary for the CRA, a public meeting held February 6, 2018 which included City officials and members of the community, identified additional suggestions, including:

- Infrastructure Improvements
- Streetlight Upgrades
- Aide Small Businesses by Awarding Grants and Shopping Locally
- Attract a Quality Grocery Store
• Provide Transportation, and Attract Businesses That Can Better Serve Persons with Disabilities
• Establish a Farmer’s Market (Healthier and Local Food Options)
• Health Clinic / Urgent Care
• More Hotels

Recommendations

In consideration of the interests of the community and known tools to generate redevelopment, recommendations have been proposed based on this study. Economic Development Projects and Programs to consider are as follows:

• Establishment of CRA staff and administrative functions (may be paid up front by the City and reimbursed by the CRA when TIF revenues accrue).
• Promotion of catalyst project(s) to kick off redevelopment
• Public-Private Partnerships
• Property acquisition
• Adjustment of lot layouts to increase frontage along major corridors through assembly of multiple parcels.
• Promotion of market-rate and mixed use projects in the NW 27th Avenue Corridor
• Correction of code violations on private properties through education
• Community Policing programs
• Neighborhood improvement (improve public health, safety, morals, and welfare)
• Market-specific studies
• Special events
• Infrastructure improvements
• Streetscaping along NW 27th Avenue
• Façade grants to businesses
• Business recruitment
• Entryway and wayfinding signage
• Development incentives (such as relocation grants to bring in existing businesses)
• Supporting other desired projects
Establishing the resources and connections necessary to build public-private partnerships and coordinate property assembly, as well as to attract the uses most desired by the community is a key early step in CRA establishment. The CRA administrative staff can consist of permanent employees, contracted specialists, or a combination of both. Many CRAs are administered by City employees, with contracted teams for community events or special projects. The CRA Board should consider the options and may occasionally solicit specialists through a request for proposals or request for qualifications (RFP/RFQ), especially as it relates to real estate transactions or grant applications.
SECTION VII: EXIT STRATEGY

When is Redevelopment Complete?

Redevelopment is a constant process; it is never really complete. The purpose of the CRA is to focus redevelopment in a defined area for a period of time, but it does not mean redevelopment has to end when the CRA is no longer active. The revenue stream from TIF funds will end, but the efforts and momentum can carry on.

When Has the CRA Completed Its Assigned Task?

This Plan for the NW 27th Avenue CRA contains many projects and programs, focused on a few catalyst projects. The Florida Statutes dictate that Community Redevelopment Agencies created after July 1, 2002 have 40 years after the fiscal year in which the plan is adopted to complete all redevelopment financed by the increment revenues through the plan. The CRA operations are not to exceed 30 years, however.

If you can answer “yes” to the following three questions, then the CRA may sunset and the Redevelopment Trust Fund should be closed.

1. Have all of the projects in this plan been completed and funded (except for ongoing maintenance)?
2. Have all of the programs in this plan been implemented and have they made an impact in the community or met their goals?
3. Has all debt from the implementation of projects and programs been paid off?

Five (5) Year Plan Review

Every five (5) years after its initial adoption, this CRA plan shall be reviewed. The projects and programs identified in the plan need to be evaluated to determine whether they are already completed, still necessary and still desired, or if they should be removed from the Plan.
Communities evolve, as do the local market conditions. Therefore at the same time that the plan is being evaluated to see what may be removed, the Plan may be amended to include new projects and programs identified to meet new needs.

**Termination of Tax Increment Payment**

Regular review of the CRAs progress is required, taking note of when projects have been completed. There will be some projects requiring funds for ongoing operations, but most will be complete and the much of the remaining tax increment will not be needed. Budgets should be reviewed to determine how much funding is still needed, and a determination can be made as to reducing the level of tax increment collected, or if it can be eliminated completely.
SECTION VIII: APPENDICES

Appendix A: Legal Description .................................................................................................................. 60
Appendix B: Florida Statutes ..................................................................................................................... 63
Appendix C: Maps ...................................................................................................................................... 71
Appendix D: Site Photos ........................................................................................................................... 79
Appendix E: Tax Increment Financing Revenues Table ............................................................................. 84
Appendix A: Legal Description

MIAMI GARDENS NW 27TH AVENUE CRA
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A portion of Miami-Dade County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

BEGIN at the Northwest corner of Section 32, Township 51 South, Range 41 East, on the Northern Boundary of Miami-Dade County, Florida; thence run south along the West line of said Section 32, (centerline of NW 47th Avenue) to the intersection with the centerline of the Snake Creek Canal (C-9); thence southeasterly and easterly along said centerline to the intersection with the northeasterly projection of the centerline of that certain canal recorded in Official Records Book 837, Page 685 (Miami-Dade County Records) lying between Leslie Estates Section 5, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 96, Page 79 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida and Leslie Estates Section 6, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 97, Page 19 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence southwesterly and southerly along said centerline to the intersection with the north line of Lot 51 of Carol City 4th Addition, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 65, Page 122 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence easterly along said north line to the to the northeast corner of said Lot 51; Thence southerly along the east line of said Lot 51 and the southerly prolongation thereof, to the intersection with the centerline of NW 183rd Street (Miami Gardens Drive); Thence westerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline with NW 31st Avenue; Thence southerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 179th Street; thence easterly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 27th Avenue; Thence westerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 27th Avenue; Thence southerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 27th Avenue; Thence northerly along said centerline to the intersection with the easterly prolongation of the south line of Block 55 of the Second Addition to
Myrtle Grove, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 65, Page 103 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence westerly along said south line to the southeast corner of Parcel A of said Plat; Thence northerly along the east line of said Parcel A and northerly prolongation thereof to the intersection with the centerline of NW 175th Street; Thence easterly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 25th Avenue; Thence northerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 179th Street; Thence westerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 25th Court; Thence northerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of aforesaid NW 183rd Street (Miami Gardens Drive); Thence easterly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 24th Avenue; Thence northerly along said centerline to the intersection with the easterly prolongation of the south line of Tract “D” of Dolphin Center Stadium site, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 129, Page 91, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence westerly along said prolongation and said south line to the southwest corner of said Tract “D”; Thence northerly along the west line of said Tract “D” and northerly prolongation thereof to the intersection with the centerline of NW 199th Street; Thence northwesterly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 27th Avenue; Thence northerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of aforesaid Snake Creek Canal (C-9); Thence easterly along said centerline to the intersection with the southerly prolongation of the east line of Tract “D” of Lake Lucerne Section Seven, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 157, Page 73 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence northerly along said prolongation and said east line same being the east line of Section 34, Township 51 South, Range 41 East, to the northwest corner of said Tract “D”; Thence westerly along the northerly line of said Tract “D” and the westerly prolongation thereof, to the intersection with the centerline of NW 17th Avenue; Thence southeasterly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 207th Street; Thence westerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 23rd Avenue; Thence northerly along said centerline to the intersection with the north line of Tract “A” (NW 208th Terrace) of Lake Lucerne Estates, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 95, Page 90 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence westerly along said north line to the northeast corner of Tract “A” of Lake Lucerne Center, according to the plat
thereof as recorded in Plat Book 96, Page 30 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence westerly along the north line of said Tract “A” same being the south line of Tract “A” of Calder Race Course, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 168, Page 57 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida to the southwest corner of said plat; Thence northerly along the west line of said Tract “A” to the northwest corner of said plat; Thence easterly along a northerly line of said plat to a northwest corner of said plat; Thence northeasterly and northerly along a westerly line of said plat and the northerly prolongation thereof to the intersection with a point being on the north boundary of Miami-Dade County, Florida, along the North Section lines of Sections 34,33, in Township 51 South, Range 41 East. Thence westerly along said north boundary to the intersection with the west Right-of-Way line of NW 27th Avenue; Thence southerly along said Right-of-Way line to the southeast corner of Block 8, Liberty Homes Estates Section Four, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 87, Page 82 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence westerly along the south line of said Block 8 to the northeast corner of Block 2 of Fairland Gardens, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 121, Page 100, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence southerly along the east line of said Block 2 and the southerly prolongation thereof, to the intersection with the centerline of NW 207th Street; Thence westerly along said centerline to the intersection with the centerline of NW 37th Avenue; Thence northerly along said centerline to the intersection with a point on the north boundary of Miami-Dade County, Florida; Thence westerly along said north boundary same being the north section line of Section 32, Township 51 South, Range 41 East to the northwest corner of said Section 32 and the Point of Beginning.
Appendix B: Florida Statutes

Section 163.340, Florida Statutes - Definitions

(1) “Agency” or “community redevelopment agency” means a public agency created by, or designated pursuant to, s. 163.356 or s. 163.357.

(2) “Public body” means the state or any county, municipality, authority, special district as defined in s. 165.031(7), or other public body of the state, except a school district.

(3) “Governing body” means the council, commission, or other legislative body charged with governing the county or municipality.

(4) “Mayor” means the mayor of a municipality or, for a county, the chair of the board of county commissioners or such other officer as may be constituted by law to act as the executive head of such municipality or county.

(5) “Clerk” means the clerk or other official of the county or municipality who is the custodian of the official records of such county or municipality.

(6) “Federal Government” includes the United States or any agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States.

(7) “Slum area” means an area having physical or economic conditions conducive to disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, poverty, or crime because there is a predominance of buildings or improvements, whether residential or nonresidential, which are impaired by reason of dilapidation, deterioration, age, or obsolescence, and exhibiting one or more of the following factors:
   (a) Inadequate provision for ventilation, light, air, sanitation, or open spaces;
   (b) High density of population, compared to the population density of adjacent areas within the county or municipality; and overcrowding, as indicated by government-maintained statistics or other studies and the requirements of the Florida Building Code; or
   (c) The existence of conditions that endanger life or property by fire or other causes.

(8) “Blighted area” means an area in which there are a substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating structures; in which conditions, as indicated by government-maintained statistics or other studies, endanger life or property or are leading to economic distress; and in which two or more of the following factors are present:
   (a) Predominance of defective or inadequate street layout, parking facilities, roadways, bridges, or public transportation facilities.
   (b) Aggregate assessed values of real property in the area for ad valorem tax purposes have failed to show any appreciable increase over the 5 years prior to the finding of such conditions.
   (c) Faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness.
   (d) Unsanitary or unsafe conditions.
   (e) Deterioration of site or other improvements.
   (f) Inadequate and outdated building density patterns.
(g) Falling lease rates per square foot of office, commercial, or industrial space compared to the remainder of the county or municipality.

(h) Tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land.

(i) Residential and commercial vacancy rates higher in the area than in the remainder of the county or municipality.

(j) Incidence of crime in the area higher than in the remainder of the county or municipality.

(k) Fire and emergency medical service calls to the area proportionately higher than in the remainder of the county or municipality.

(l) A greater number of violations of the Florida Building Code in the area than the number of violations recorded in the remainder of the county or municipality.

(m) Diversity of ownership or defective or unusual conditions of title which prevent the free alienability of land within the deteriorated or hazardous area.

(n) Governmentally owned property with adverse environmental conditions caused by a public or private entity.

(o) A substantial number or percentage of properties damaged by sinkhole activity which have not been adequately repaired or stabilized.

However, the term “blighted area” also means any area in which at least one of the factors identified in paragraphs (a) through (o) is present and all taxing authorities subject to s. 163.387(2)(a) agree, either by interlocal agreement with the agency or by resolution, that the area is blighted. Such agreement or resolution must be limited to a determination that the area is blighted. For purposes of qualifying for the tax credits authorized in chapter 220, “blighted area” means an area as defined in this subsection.

(9) “Community redevelopment” or “redevelopment” means undertakings, activities, or projects of a county, municipality, or community redevelopment agency in a community redevelopment area for the elimination and prevention of the development or spread of slums and blight, or for the reduction or prevention of crime, or for the provision of affordable housing, whether for rent or for sale, to residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly, and may include slum clearance and redevelopment in a community redevelopment area or rehabilitation and revitalization of coastal resort and tourist areas that are deteriorating and economically distressed, or rehabilitation or conservation in a community redevelopment area, or any combination or part thereof, in accordance with a community redevelopment plan and may include the preparation of such a plan.

(10) “Community redevelopment area” means a slum area, a blighted area, or an area in which there is a shortage of housing that is affordable to residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly, or a coastal and tourist area that is deteriorating and economically distressed due to outdated building density patterns, inadequate transportation and parking facilities, faulty lot layout or inadequate street layout, or a combination thereof which the governing body designates as appropriate for community redevelopment. For community redevelopment agencies created after July 1, 2006, a community redevelopment area may not consist of more than 80 percent of a municipality.
(11) “Community redevelopment plan” means a plan, as it exists from time to time, for a community redevelopment area.

(12) “Related activities” means:
   (a) Planning work for the preparation of a general neighborhood redevelopment plan or for the preparation or completion of a communitywide plan or program pursuant to s. 163.365.
   (b) The functions related to the acquisition and disposal of real property pursuant to s.163.370(4).
   (c) The development of affordable housing for residents of the area.
   (d) The development of community policing innovations.

(13) “Real property” means all lands, including improvements and fixtures thereon, and property of any nature appurtenant thereto or used in connection therewith and every estate, interest, right, and use, legal or equitable, therein, including but not limited to terms for years and liens by way of judgment, mortgage, or otherwise.

(14) “Bonds” means any bonds (including refunding bonds), notes, interim certificates, certificates of indebtedness, debentures, or other obligations.

(15) “Obligee” means and includes any bondholder, agents or trustees for any bondholders, or lessor demising to the county or municipality property used in connection with community redevelopment, or any assignee or assignees of such lessor’s interest or any part thereof, and the Federal Government when it is a party to any contract with the county or municipality.

(16) “Person” means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, or body politic and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or other person acting in a similar representative capacity.

(17) “Area of operation” means, for a county, the area within the boundaries of the county, and for a municipality, the area within the corporate limits of the municipality.

(18) “Housing authority” means a housing authority created by and established pursuant to chapter 421.

(19) “Board” or “commission” means a board, commission, department, division, office, body or other unit of the county or municipality.

(20) “Public officer” means any officer who is in charge of any department or branch of the government of the county or municipality relating to health, fire, building regulations, or other activities concerning dwellings in the county or municipality.

(21) “Debt service millage” means any millage levied pursuant to s. 12, Art. VII of the State Constitution.

(22) “Increment revenue” means the amount calculated pursuant to s. 163.387(1).

(23) “Community policing innovation” means a policing technique or strategy designed to reduce crime by reducing opportunities for, and increasing the perceived risks of engaging in, criminal activity through visible presence of police in the community, including, but not limited to, community mobilization, neighborhood block watch, citizen patrol, citizen contact patrol, foot patrol, neighborhood storefront police stations, field interrogation, or intensified motorized patrol.

(24) “Taxing authority” means a public body that levies or is authorized to levy an ad valorem tax on real property located in a community redevelopment area.
Section 163.370, Florida Statutes - Powers; counties and municipalities; community redevelopment agencies.

(1) Counties and municipalities may not exercise the power of eminent domain for the purpose of preventing or eliminating a slum area or blighted area as defined in this part; however, counties and municipalities may acquire property by eminent domain within a community redevelopment area, subject to the limitations set forth in ss. 73.013 and 73.014 or other general law.

(2) Every county and municipality shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this part, including the following powers in addition to others herein granted:

(a) To make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers under this part.

(b) To disseminate slum clearance and community redevelopment information.

(c) To undertake and carry out community redevelopment and related activities within the community redevelopment area, which may include:

1. Acquisition of property within a slum area or a blighted area by purchase, lease, option, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or other voluntary method of acquisition.

2. Demolition and removal of buildings and improvements.

3. Installation, construction, or reconstruction of streets, utilities, parks, playgrounds, public areas of major hotels that are constructed in support of convention centers, including meeting rooms, banquet facilities, parking garages, lobbies, and passageways, and other improvements necessary for carrying out in the community redevelopment area the community redevelopment objectives of this part in accordance with the community redevelopment plan.

4. Disposition of any property acquired in the community redevelopment area at its fair value as provided in s. 163.380 for uses in accordance with the community redevelopment plan.

5. Carrying out plans for a program of voluntary or compulsory repair and rehabilitation of buildings or other improvements in accordance with the community redevelopment plan.

6. Acquisition by purchase, lease, option, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or other voluntary method of acquisition of real property in the community redevelopment area which, under the community redevelopment plan, is to be repaired or rehabilitated for dwelling use or related facilities, repair or rehabilitation of the structures for guidance purposes, and resale of the property.

7. Acquisition by purchase, lease, option, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or other voluntary method of acquisition of any other real property in the community redevelopment area when necessary to eliminate unhealthful, unsanitary, or unsafe conditions; lessen density;
eliminate obsolete or other uses detrimental to the public welfare; or otherwise to remove or prevent the spread of blight or deterioration or to provide land for needed public facilities.

8. Acquisition, without regard to any requirement that the area be a slum or blighted area, of air rights in an area consisting principally of land in highways, railway or subway tracks, bridge or tunnel entrances, or other similar facilities which have a blighting influence on the surrounding area and over which air rights sites are to be developed for the elimination of such blighting influences and for the provision of housing (and related facilities and uses) designed specifically for, and limited to, families and individuals of low or moderate income.

9. Acquisition by purchase, lease, option, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or other voluntary method of acquisition of property in unincorporated enclaves surrounded by the boundaries of a community redevelopment area when it is determined necessary by the agency to accomplish the community redevelopment plan.

10. Construction of foundations and platforms necessary for the provision of air rights sites of housing (and related facilities and uses) designed specifically for, and limited to, families and individuals of low or moderate income.

(d) To provide, or to arrange or contract for, the furnishing or repair by any person or agency, public or private, of services, privileges, works, streets, roads, public utilities, or other facilities for or in connection with a community redevelopment; to install, construct, and reconstruct streets, utilities, parks, playgrounds, and other public improvements; and to agree to any conditions that it deems reasonable and appropriate which are attached to federal financial assistance and imposed pursuant to federal law relating to the determination of prevailing salaries or wages or compliance with labor standards, in the undertaking or carrying out of a community redevelopment and related activities, and to include in any contract let in connection with such redevelopment and related activities provisions to fulfill such of the conditions as it deems reasonable and appropriate.

(e) Within the community redevelopment area:

1. To enter into any building or property in any community redevelopment area in order to make inspections, surveys, appraisals, soundings, or test borings and to obtain an order for this purpose from a court of competent jurisdiction in the event entry is denied or resisted.

2. To acquire by purchase, lease, option, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or other voluntary method of acquisition any personal or real property, together with any improvements thereon.

3. To hold, improve, clear, or prepare for redevelopment any such property.

4. To mortgage, pledge, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber or dispose of any real property.

5. To insure or provide for the insurance of any real or personal property or operations of the county or municipality against any risks or hazards, including the power to pay premiums on any such insurance.

6. To enter into any contracts necessary to effectuate the purposes of this part.
7. To solicit requests for proposals for redevelopment of parcels of real property contemplated by a community redevelopment plan to be acquired for redevelopment purposes by a community redevelopment agency and, as a result of such requests for proposals, to advertise for the disposition of such real property to private persons pursuant to s. 163.380 prior to acquisition of such real property by the community redevelopment agency.

(f) To invest any community redevelopment funds held in reserves or sinking funds or any such funds not required for immediate disbursement in property or securities in which savings banks may legally invest funds subject to their control and to redeem such bonds as have been issued pursuant to s. 163.385 at the redemption price established therein or to purchase such bonds at less than redemption price, all such bonds so redeemed or purchased to be canceled.

(g) To borrow money and to apply for and accept advances, loans, grants, contributions, and any other form of financial assistance from the Federal Government or the state, county, or other public body or from any sources, public or private, for the purposes of this part and to give such security as may be required and to enter into and carry out contracts or agreements in connection therewith; and to include in any contract for financial assistance with the Federal Government for or with respect to community redevelopment and related activities such conditions imposed pursuant to federal laws as the county or municipality deems reasonable and appropriate which are not inconsistent with the purposes of this part.

(h) To make or have made all surveys and plans necessary to the carrying out of the purposes of this part; to contract with any person, public or private, in making and carrying out such plans; and to adopt or approve, modify, and amend such plans, which plans may include, but are not limited to:

1. Plans for carrying out a program of voluntary or compulsory repair and rehabilitation of buildings and improvements.

2. Plans for the enforcement of state and local laws, codes, and regulations relating to the use of land and the use and occupancy of buildings and improvements and to the compulsory repair, rehabilitation, demolition, or removal of buildings and improvements.

3. Appraisals, title searches, surveys, studies, and other plans and work necessary to prepare for the undertaking of community redevelopment and related activities.

(i) To develop, test, and report methods and techniques, and carry out demonstrations and other activities, for the prevention and the elimination of slums and urban blight and developing and demonstrating new or improved means of providing housing for families and persons of low income.

(j) To apply for, accept, and utilize grants of funds from the Federal Government for such purposes.

(k) To prepare plans for and assist in the relocation of persons (including individuals, families, business concerns, nonprofit organizations, and others) displaced from a community redevelopment area and to make relocation payments to or with respect to such persons for moving expenses and
losses of property for which reimbursement or compensation is not otherwise made, including the making of such payments financed by the Federal Government.

(l) To appropriate such funds and make such expenditures as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this part; to zone or rezone any part of the county or municipality or make exceptions from building regulations; and to enter into agreements with a housing authority, which agreements may extend over any period, notwithstanding any provision or rule of law to the contrary, respecting action to be taken by such county or municipality pursuant to any of the powers granted by this part.

(m) To close, vacate, plan, or replan streets, roads, sidewalks, ways, or other places and to plan or replan any part of the county or municipality.

(n) To organize, coordinate, and direct the administration of the provisions of this part, as they may apply to such county or municipality, in order that the objective of remedying slum and blighted areas and preventing the causes thereof within such county or municipality may be most effectively promoted and achieved and to establish such new office or offices of the county or municipality or to reorganize existing offices in order to carry out such purpose most effectively.

(o) To develop and implement community policing innovations.

(3) The following projects may not be paid for or financed by increment revenues:

(a) Construction or expansion of administrative buildings for public bodies or police and fire buildings, unless each taxing authority agrees to such method of financing for the construction or expansion, or unless the construction or expansion is contemplated as part of a community policing innovation.

(b) Installation, construction, reconstruction, repair, or alteration of any publicly owned capital improvements or projects if such projects or improvements were scheduled to be installed, constructed, reconstructed, repaired, or altered within 3 years of the approval of the community redevelopment plan by the governing body pursuant to a previously approved public capital improvement or project schedule or plan of the governing body which approved the community redevelopment plan unless and until such projects or improvements have been removed from such schedule or plan of the governing body and 3 years have elapsed since such removal or such projects or improvements were identified in such schedule or plan to be funded, in whole or in part, with funds on deposit within the community redevelopment trust fund.

(c) General government operating expenses unrelated to the planning and carrying out of a community redevelopment plan.

(4) With the approval of the governing body, a community redevelopment agency may:

(a) Prior to approval of a community redevelopment plan or approval of any modifications of the plan, acquire real property in a community redevelopment area by purchase, lease, option, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or other voluntary method of acquisition; demolish and remove any structures on the property; and pay all costs related to the acquisition, demolition, or removal, including any administrative or relocation expenses.
(b) Assume the responsibility to bear any loss that may arise as the result of the exercise of authority under this subsection, in the event that the real property is not made part of the community redevelopment area.
Appendix C: Maps

Map A: Community Facilities........................................................................................................72
Map B: Future Land Use..................................................................................................................73
Map C: Official Zoning..................................................................................................................74
Map D: Vacant Properties within the CRA ...................................................................................75
Map E: Brownfields.......................................................................................................................76
Map F: Transit Routes....................................................................................................................77
Map G: Miami Gardens Express Trolley Routes.............................................................................78
Map A: Community Facilities
Map D: Vacant Properties within the CRA
Map F: Transit Routes

City of Miami Gardens
Community Redevelopment Agency
Transit Information

Miami-Dade County Bus Routes
- Route 17
- Route 27
- Route 32
- Route 75
- Route 95
- Route 99
- Route 183
- Route 246
- Route 297

- CRA Boundary
- Miami Gardens City Boundary
- Bus Stops
Appendix D: Site Photos

Exhibit 1: Vacant Site Southeast End of NW 27th Avenue Corridor........................................... 80
Exhibit 2: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens................................. 80
Exhibit 3: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens................................. 81
Exhibit 4: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens................................. 81
Exhibit 5: Future Bridge Point Commerce Center ......................................................................... 82
Exhibit 6: Future Development Site............................................................................................... 82
Exhibit 7: Gardens Promenade Under Construction ..................................................................... 83
Exhibit 1: Vacant Site Southeast End of NW 27th Avenue Corridor

Source: (Keith & Schnars)

Exhibit 2: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens
Exhibit 3: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens

Source: (Keith & Schnars)

Exhibit 4: Catalyst Site, Vacant 40 acres owned by City of Miami Gardens

Source: (Keith & Schnars)
Exhibit 5: Future Bridge Point Commerce Center

Source: (Keith & Schnars)

Exhibit 6: Future Development Site

Source: (Keith & Schnars)
Exhibit 7: Gardens Promenade Under Construction

Source: (Keith & Schnars)
## Appendix E: Tax Increment Financing Revenues Table

Prepared by PMG Associates  
Base Year: 2018 / Sunset Year: 2047

### Table: Tax Increment Financing Revenues (2018 - 2027)

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### Additional Financial Breakdown

- **Beginning Taxable Value:** $473,889,245
- **End Taxable Value:** $694,041,879
- **Increment:** Calculated as the difference between end and beginning taxable values.
- **TIF (Total Increment Finance):** Calculated as the sum of specific increments.
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### Beginning Taxable Value
- **Beginning Taxable Value**: $707,922,717
- **End Taxable Value**: $707,922,717

### Total Base Year
- **Total Base Year**: $473,889,245

### Increment
- **Increment**: $234,033,472

### TIF (6.9363 + 4.6669 = 11.6032)
- **TIF**: $2,450,772

### Additional Projects
- **Miami Gardens Apartments**
- **24 Hour Fitness**
- **Murphy Gas Station**
- **Miami Gardens Retail**
- **Hotel**
- **Miami Gardens Culinary Center**
- **Performing Arts Center**
- **7- Eleven**
- **Future Development Site**
- **Princeton Park Townhomes**
- **Gardens Promenade**
- **Additional Residential**
- **Additional Commercial**

### End Taxable Value
- **End Taxable Value**: $707,922,717
- **End Taxable Value**: $707,922,717
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<td>$862,953,842</td>
<td>$880,212,918</td>
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<td><strong>End Taxable Value</strong></td>
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