

External Affairs Committee October 2010

Thank you to everyone who responded to our email request to send letters and emails to the Governor, both the Republican and Democrat Governor nominees and the Secretary of FDOT asking them to support reevaluating Hunters Ridge for construction of an FDOT sound barrier along I-75. A significant number of our members and friends have sent emails and letters to these requested officials. Numbers of advocates do count especially as we approach the November 2, 2010 election when a new Governor and US Senator will be elected. All of these individuals are competing for your vote, therefore numbers do count. So far we have had the following successes which hopefully will cause FDOT to agree to reevaluate Hunters Ridge and give our community the same beneficial analysis they afforded five other major communities and facilities outlined in our initial eight (8) page letter of appeal for reevaluation of August 3, 2010. The following is a list of support our community has picked up since sending our letter of appeal to FDOT: August 18th Bonita Springs City Council unanimously passes resolution of support and Mayor writes FDOT Secretary on our behalf; August 20, 2010 State Senator Aronberg notifies us Secretary of FDOT has directed District 1 to send all reports, analysis and correspondence on Hunters Ridge and five communities listed in our August 3 letter to FDOT Headquarters for review; September 8th senior staff for Alex Sink, Democrat nominee for Governor and current Florida CFO (State Treasurer) wanting to know if we wanted her support as Florida's CFO or as candidate for Governor, she indicated they had already received a number of emails and letters on our behalf; August 10th we received an email indicating San Remo would be sending a letter of support to our list of officials supporting our request; September 11th we received a draft of letter Bonita East Stakeholders (BES) would be sending to those requested officials on our behalf, BES represents five gated communities of approximately 8000 residents; and September 13th Senior Aide to State Representative Trudi Williams, Sheri Davie called us to let us know they have called FDOT Headquarters and FDOT has confirmed they are making an in-depth investigation of issues outlined in our August 3rd letter of appeal including reevaluating our community. They said it was possible they would reevaluate Hunters Ridge. We have been assured that FDOT would be meeting with us prior to making any definite conclusions. Also on September 13th Brian Blanchard, Senior Staff of FDOT Headquarters, called to inform us he was in charge of the Headquarters review of our appeal letter and discrepancies outlined in our August 3 letter requesting Hunters Ridge be reevaluated. Mr. Blanchard said our appeal was the most technically detailed and well documented appeal he had ever seen. Mr. Blanchard agreed that prior to their making any conclusions that he would meet with Fred Forbes, Don Simpson and Mary Copeland at Hunters Ridge plus tour the other five communities and facilities to see the benefits afforded to them by FDOT which ultimately resulted in sound barriers being built for them. This meeting should occur in mid October.

PLEASE if you have not sent an email or letter to the list of four major officials, please send them now! If you have sent emails or letters do it again and again every few days because numbers of emails and letters which support our community count. It gets their attention. Finally ask all your friends in this area of greater Bonita Springs to also send emails and letters of support. If you have deleted or not received our original email, please call Chris Durfey at 239-992-4900 or email her at chrisdurfey@comcast.net and ask her to send you a new email with all the information you need. We plan to make direct contact with Republican nominee for Governor Rick Scott and ask why we have not heard from them. We also plan to make direct

contact with Governor Crist's office to ask why when he intervened on behalf of Village Walk based on letters of support from their State Representative and Senator plus a simple letter of appeal from Village Walk saying FDOT was too rigid, inflexible and lacked common sense when they analyzed their community. After Governor Crist's office wrote FDOT on their behalf, they reevaluated Village Walk using more liberal criteria and it still failed the criteria by over 10%. FDOT then, as admitted in writing, decided they had the discretionary authority to waive the criteria and Village Walk got a sound barrier last November of 2009 about a year and a half after all the other sound walls were completed. We need your emails and letters to continue.