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# MEETING NOTICE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on April 24, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida at 6:00 p.m.

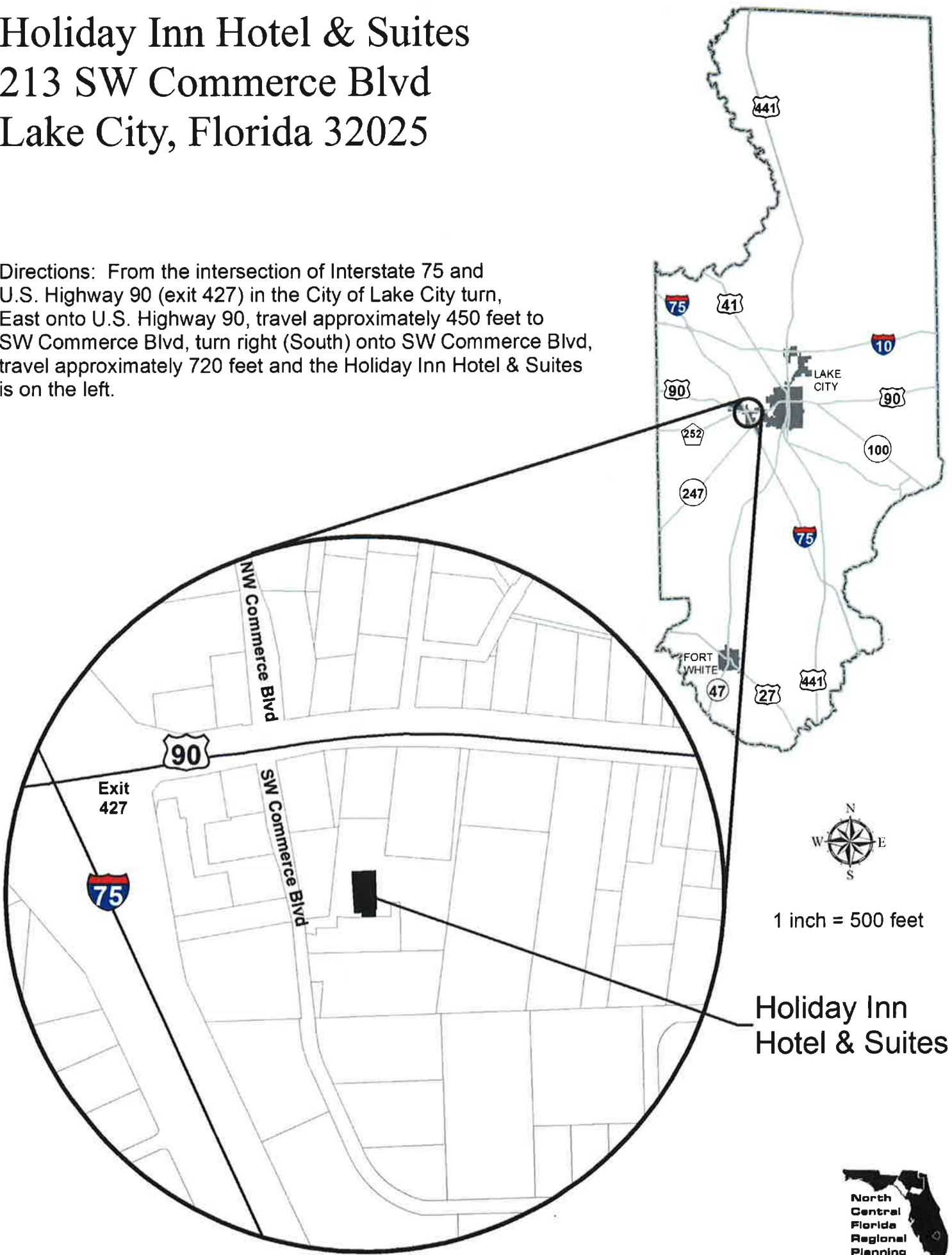
(Location Map on Back)

# Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

## 213 SW Commerce Blvd

### Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.



Holiday Inn  
Hotel & Suites





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## AGENDA

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

April 24, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

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* I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 27, 2014	5
II. CONTRACTS AND APPLICATIONS - None	
* III. PROGRAM REPORT - Proclamation Declaring May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week	7
IV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	
* A. Check Fraud Status Report	11
B. Executive Director Employment Contract	
V. OTHER BUSINESS - None	

\* See Attachments

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

March 27, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Garth Nobles, Jr., Chair  
Rick Davis, Executive Committee Member  
Daniel Riddick, Secretary-Treasurer  
Carolyn Spooner, Vice-Chair  
Lorene Thomas, Immediate Past Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Scott R. Koons

Chair Garth Nobles, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 20, 2014

Chair Nobles asked that the minutes for the February 20, 2014 Executive Committee meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION:** Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Mayor Spooner, to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on February 20, 2014 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

II. CONTRACTS AND APPLICATIONS

A. Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Davis made the motion, with a second by Mayor Spooner, to recommend that the Council authorize the Executive Director to sign an amendment to the memorandum of agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for an additional year as a user of the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc., for a fixed fee amount of \$6,285.50. The motion carried unanimously.

B. U.S. Economic Development Administration Short-Term Planning and State Planning Grant Amendment

**ACTION:** Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Riddick, to recommend that the Council authorize the Executive Director to submit a six-month extension for the Federal Assistance for a Short-Term Planning and State Planning Investment Grant awarded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$200,000 and authorize the Chair to execute the time extension. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Florida Department of Transportation Joint Participation Agreement and Resolution

**ACTION:** Commissioner Riddick made the motion, with a second by Mayor Spooner, to recommend that the Council authorize the Executive Director to submit a 12-month extension amendment for the Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to provide support for transportation planning and regional visioning for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties and adopt Resolution No. 2014-02 authorizing the Chair to execute an amendment to the Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. The motion carried unanimously.

III. PROGRAM REPORT - None

IV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

A. Transportation for America's Revenue Endorsement Resolution

**ACTION:** Commissioner Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Riddick, to recommend that the Council adopt Resolution 2014-03 endorsing the Transportation for America's Revenue Proposal. The motion carried by a vote of 3 yeas to 2 nays.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

4/24/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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April 17, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proclamation Declaring May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week

RECOMMENDATION:

**Adopt the attached proclamation declaring the week of May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week.**

BACKGROUND:

The Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a task force of the Council 22 years ago. It is now a 10-county independent tourism marketing interlocal agreement organization. The mission of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force is to “Promote the natural, historic, and cultural attractions of the north central Florida region to increase the number of visitors and extend their stay. The goal is to enhance the area’s economy, image, and quality of life through expanded revenues and employment opportunities. At the same time, the region will encourage the preservation of the resources which bring focus to the area.”

The week of May 3-11, 2014 is *National Travel and Tourism Week* as declared by the Travel Industry Association. Activities are planned throughout the United States and Florida to support and celebrate the tourism industry.

It is recommended that the Council adopt the attached proclamation declaring the week of May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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# PROCLAMATION

## DECLARING MAY 3-11, 2014 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism brings over 94 million visitors annually to the State of Florida, generates over \$4.6 billion in annual sales tax revenues and employs over one million persons;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of tourism to the north central Florida regional economy and quality of life;

WHEREAS, local governments, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council support tourism opportunities in north central Florida; and

WHEREAS, local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are working together to support this vital part of north central Florida's economy and all who play a role in tourism to ensure that north central Florida continues to be a place where traditions will be created and continued for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of May 3-11, 2014 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of April 2014.

ATTEST:

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Daniel Riddick, Secretary-Treasurer

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Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

SEAL:





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April 17, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*

SUBJECT: Check Fraud Status Report

On March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department.

On March 28, 2013, Council Attorney Jonathan Wershow and Council staff briefed the Executive Committee concerning this matter. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. On April 25, 2013, Council staff briefed the Council concerning this matter. On June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter to Mr. Wershow's letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

On July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00 and designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. In addition, the Council authorized the Council Attorney and the Executive Director to contact federal and state law enforcement agencies to discuss the fraudulent check processed and paid out of the Council's bank account by Wells Fargo.

On August 5, 2013, Council Attorney Wershow and I met with Mr. William Cervone, State's Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida to discuss the check fraud incident. Mr. Cervone offered the assistance of his staff to work with the Gainesville Police Department to secure the bank records relating to the check fraud incident.

On August 6, 2013, Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Stanley Cushman filed a five-count lawsuit in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida, against Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's bank account.

Council Members  
April 17, 2014  
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On September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Wells Fargo alleges that disputes related to the Council's checking account are to be resolved by an arbitrator. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman responded to the motion stating arbitration does not apply to the dispute.

A hearing was scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo. However, the hearing was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Stanley Cushman are coordinating with the attorney of Wells Fargo on the selection of an arbitrator and scheduling of the arbitration hearing.

Please find attached a summary of legal fees incurred to date concerning the lawsuit.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
Wells Fargo Lawsuit  
Legal Fees

April 24, 2014

<u>Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
August 2013	\$1,383
September 2013	\$2,253
October 2013	\$3,445
November 2013	\$180
December 2013	\$0
January 2014	\$2,760
February 2014	\$1,410
March 2014	<u>\$2,502</u>
Total	\$13,933

