



JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Clerk of the Circuit Court / Comptroller
Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners
Nassau County



February 9, 2009

David Hallman, Esquire
Nassau County Attorney
P.O. Box 1010
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

Re: Proposed Tradeplex Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU)

Dear David:

Thank you for your email this morning regarding my question last week about the legality of the county fronting public funds for developer improvements that normally are funded by the developers when they create projects.

The rigorous requirements placed upon the recent Amelia Concourse project comes to mind where, with no loan or fronting of public funds, the MSBU was created making the funds available prior to the construction taking place.

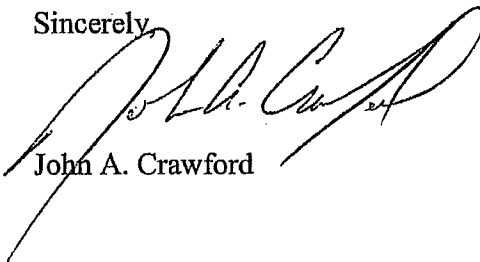
As CFO, I must also raise some caution about drawing down public funds in a very uncertain economic environment to fund construction projects that traditionally have been paid for by developers. I think the assertion that statutes allow such a loan for the benefit of an existing MSBU is correct. As the proposed MSBU is not in place prior to public funds being committed and spent, this appears to be a "loan" of public funds to private developers.

This unique approach seems to set a precedent that will most likely have others asking for the same consideration (upfront expenditure of public funds) for the benefit of their projects, whether for mitigating safety issues, concurrency failures, or other issues created by the development approval.

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The taxpayers should not be expected to become "the bank" for private development, especially in such uncertain economic times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

John A. Crawford

cc: Honorable Barry V. Holloway, Chairman