



## Press Release

**Commissioner Tom Henning**  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 303  
Naples, FL 34112-5746

**Contact: Camden Smith**  
239-252-8605

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **County Announces New Fire Plans Review Section and Development Fee Reductions**

(Naples, Fla.) – The Growth Management Division and Board of County Commissioners made huge strides Tuesday in lessening the burden on developers and their customers by reducing fees and speeding up fire plans reviews. The Board approved reducing select fees related to plans reviews and development by five to six percent while also approving a new fire plans reviews section within the division.

With development speed tied to new jobs in the area, fire plans reviews had in some cases delayed projects prompting discussions with fire districts about their impact on economic development. Commissioner Tom Henning, District 3, led discussions with the Golden Gate, East Naples and North Naples Fire Commissioners focused on improving fire plans reviews and moving the responsibility under the County.

“Jobs must make it to the market faster, and businesses must know we are business friendly. This change is a first step to positively impacting this County’s growth,” Commissioner Tom Henning, District 3.

At Tuesday’s BCC meeting, Commissioners approved hiring County fire plans reviewers to assume control over reviews for East Naples, Golden Gate, Isles of Capri, Ochoppee and Collier Fire District One. Additionally, the Board approved a \$55,000 turn-key office lease with North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District (NNFD) which has decided to assume control of its own fire plans reviews and embed its reviews with the County’s fire plans review section. NNFD and County plans reviewers will use the same planning software to increase coordination and maximize cooperation.

The Fire Code Official’s Office uses software that cannot communicate with the County’s planning platform sometimes causing delays. There are some remaining, collective members of the Fire Code Official’s Office, and they must decide the future of their fire plans reviews prior to the office dissolving.

Although County fire plans reviewers work directly for the County, the East Naples-Golden Gate Fire Marshal will remain the Authority with Jurisdiction over final fire plans review approvals. The East Naples-Golden Gate Fire Chief, North Naples Fire Chief and Growth Management Division Administrator have committed to work together.

“Our Commission agreed to this change in order to create a positive working relationship between fire districts and the County and developers,” said East Naples Fire Control and Rescue District Commissioner Jeff Page.

Until the County and NNFD hire and train staff, Fire Code Office staff will continue to process fire plans reviews for all fire districts. NNFD has set its fire plans review launch for June 2, 2014. The County is currently in the process of hiring the appropriate staff and the positions will remain open until filled. Interested applicants may apply at <http://goo.gl/qHrvwD>.

For more information, contact Camden Smith by emailing [CamdenSmith@colliergov.net](mailto:CamdenSmith@colliergov.net) or by calling (239) 252-8605.

Respectfully,

*Camden Smith*, MPA  
Executive Coordinator to Commissioner Henning  
Board of County Commissioners  
Ph: (239) 252-8605  
Email: [CamdenSmith@colliergov.net](mailto:CamdenSmith@colliergov.net)



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