



CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW REDEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TO GUIDE DOWNTOWN PROJECT

TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – (1/29/15) – Temple Terrace’s much-anticipated downtown redevelopment project is poised to get back on track. The City has reacquired vital commercial acreage and hired a new redevelopment director to steer the \$150-million project forward.

Martin L. Hudson, 44, began work Jan. 26 as the City’s first full-time redevelopment director in more than six years. He will be tasked with crafting a new Master Development Agreement and overseeing the construction of a multiuse Town Center that will include commercial, residential and civic components.

Hudson served in a planning and redevelopment role for the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado for six years. He also has redevelopment and planning experience in Hamilton, Ohio and Martin County, Florida. His first task here, he said, is to establish a consensus among elected officials, businesses and residents exactly what a viable, sustainable downtown Temple Terrace should be.

“The first step is developing a plan of action,” Hudson said. “Education is a big part of that. We will have to have a significant educational outreach to the community and leadership. It’s important to help the community understand the market factors that make redevelopment viable.”

The City’s redevelopment efforts have been stalled for more than two years because of disagreements with the former developer, Vlass Temple Terrace LLC, regarding several issues, particularly the project’s residential components. Temple Terrace reached a mutual agreement with Vlass late in 2014 that returned about 20 acres of redevelopment property to the City. The settlement allowed the City and developer to avoid a lengthy and expensive court battle, allowed the City to move forward with its downtown redevelopment project, and allowed the City to begin accruing the benefits of an increased tax base sooner rather than later.

Hudson said the entire 225-acre Community Redevelopment Area must be considered, not simply the core commercial quadrant at the southeast corner of Bullard Parkway and 56th Street, which has been the primary focus so far.

“My goal is to help all the businesses and property owners in the CRA achieve their goals and objectives,” he said.

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