



**SPECIAL FOR *BOYNTON FORUM***

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**AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT YOUR CRA**

by Mayor Jerry Taylor, Board Chairman  
Boynton Beach CRA

Sometimes in the course of developing plans and projects to enhance the quality of life and economic opportunities that we all want for Boynton Beach, we in government assume that everyone knows how things get done along the path of progress. Recent conversations I've had, however, reveal that some in our city are unaware of the important role and significant contribution of our Community Redevelopment Agency in guiding Boynton Beach's growth into a bright and prosperous future.

As mayor and CRA board chair, it's my pleasure to shed some light on the subject.

To give you the official definition, the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency is a local body established in 1982 under Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes to eliminate or prevent the spread of slum and blight conditions, promote crime reduction and provide for affordable housing. In plain and simple terms, the CRA was created to breathe new life into the downtown area, which was in need of revitalization and economic development.

Initially responsible for 180 acres east of Federal Highway, the Agency's district was later expanded to 1,650 acres along on the east side of Boynton Beach, comprised of five sub-districts identified as Federal Highway, Heart of Boynton, Boynton Beach Boulevard, Town Square, and Ocean Avenue.

To achieve its objectives, the CRA encourages economic growth and physical redevelopment throughout the CRA District. This is accomplished by working with developers, simplifying the regulatory and permitting process, assembling and marketing developable parcels and implementing CRA-initiated projects and programs.

Your Boynton Beach CRA, like almost all CRAs, are primarily funded by tax increment financing generated by a percentage of the property tax revenues of the community redevelopment area. This method of funding drawn from properties in the CRA area that increase in value, makes it possible to raise tax revenue for development efforts without raising taxes.

The value of Community Redevelopment Agencies is best measured by the cities they serve, reflected in tangible signs of positive change such as quality growth, new housing and jobs, thriving businesses, a crowd-pleasing program of events and festivals, and revitalized neighborhoods. CRAs work every day to build better communities and create rewarding new opportunities for their residents and businesses.

The Boynton Beach CRA and its 140 counterparts throughout the state play a key role in leading Florida's cities to new benchmarks of community excellence and economic prosperity. How do they make their positive impact felt?

- The financial commitment put forth by the CRA attracts private investors and creates a trickle-down effect in which a community greatly benefits and the overall economic product is greater than the original public investment.
- The CRA creates a safer and cleaner urban environment, preserves and grows businesses, and provides a place of which we can be proud.

- The CRA serves as a catalyst for revitalization projects – working with citizens for the community’s best interests, and sustaining the overall vitality of the area.

Here in Boynton Beach, the CRA has vigorously pursued its mission to guide redevelopment activities that create a vibrant downtown core and revitalized neighborhoods. Those efforts have not only helped beautify the community, but also sharpened its identity and created a true sense of unity. That’s your CRA at work: acting in the community’s best interests to stimulate quality growth that makes Boynton Beach a great place to live, work and play.

*Boynton Beach Mayor Jerry Taylor is Board Chairman of the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency. The CRA guides redevelopment activities that create a vibrant downtown core and revitalized neighborhoods within the Agency’s district comprised of 1,650 acres along the eastern edge of the City of Boynton Beach. For more CRA information, call 561-737-3256 or log on to [www.boyntonbeachcra.com](http://www.boyntonbeachcra.com).*