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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2008

BOYNTON HARBOR MARINA REDESIGN TO CREATE “DESTINATION CENTER” AND DOWNTOWN ATTRACTION *Boynton Beach CRA Board Approves Conceptual Design*

Boynton Beach, FL – The Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has announced plans to expand the scope of the Boynton Harbor Marina from a boating and fishing facility to a pedestrian-friendly downtown destination place for dining, shopping, business and entertainment. The CRA board recently approved a conceptual design by community planning and civil engineering firm MSCW, Inc. that brings the vision for a marina-anchored, mixed-use village into focus.

“The master plan for the marina is to guide its evolution as a first-rate marine facility and a destination center for business and leisure in downtown Boynton Beach,” said CRA Board Chair and Mayor Jerry Taylor. “With the help of MSCW’s design team, we’ve taken a major step forward in structuring the marina as a truly memorable place that will provide greater public access to the waterfront, a phenomenally strong pedestrian environment, and an economically viable location for the area’s immediate and surrounding businesses.”

Among the key components of the mixed-use design are:

- Expanded parking and vehicular circulation enhancements to accommodate more visitors
- Greater access to the marina waterfront through an interconnected pedestrian promenade surrounding the marina
- Waterfront park with an interactive fountain feature

- Public restroom facilities
- Improved boat dockage
- New harbor master's office and high speed boat fueling area
- Future water taxi stop

“We’re taking some strong amenities that are already in place, adding some missing ingredients, and creating something much greater than the sum of its parts,” said Skip Harvey, engineering team manager for Orlando-based MSCW, Inc. “The conceptual designs and the renovations will create a seamless and unique sense of place at Boynton Harbor Marina.”

“Along with performing an in-depth functional analysis of traffic and pedestrian circulation, bringing our marina businesses owners into the design process was essential to shaping a successful project,” explained Lisa Bright. “With their input, we’re confident that this project design will support proper function and accessibility to existing commercial businesses while opening greater opportunities for public waterfront access.”

Expected to be designed, permitted and built in phases over a two-year period, the marina renovation project is an integral component to the Boynton Beach Downtown Master Plan’s recommendation of a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) district, a form of development that locates people and destinations near public transportation centers. The project has also been identified by Palm Beach County’s Overall Economic Development Program as one of four “Marina Villages” under the county’s Strategic Economic Development Plan. The Boynton Harbor Marina will be the first of the proposed villages to be developed and will set the precedent for design, materials, structures, and safety and accessibility standards for future projects.

The CRA purchased the marina in March 2006 as a move to preserve public access to the waterfront. The Boynton Harbor Marina, formerly known as the Two Georges Marina, has undergone a series of cosmetic renovations. The CRA acquired an additional parcel in January 2007; a 7,000 square foot slice of land, bordering the Intracoastal and just north of the Two Georges Restaurant, that included a fuel dock

facility. The initial marina purchase was financed from a bond issued in 2004. To support restoration efforts, the CRA also applied for and received \$2 million from a Palm Beach County \$50 million Waterway Bond Grant, earmarked to help preserve public waterfront.

The Boynton Beach CRA is committed to serving the community by guiding redevelopment activities and stimulating economic growth within its 1,650-acre district. The organization focuses on creating a vibrant downtown core, providing affordable housing, and revitalizing neighborhoods. For more information on the CRA, its programs and activities, call (561) 737-3256 or visit www.boyntonbeachcra.com.

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