

2021-838

To The City Council
City of Jacksonville, FL
Open Letter

I submit to you, very respectfully, the items below regarding the Proposed Baymeadows Community Improvement District (BCID), Bill 2021-0838.

I come before you to address the inequities, inconsistencies, unfairness, misunderstandings, and wandering aimlessly and without focus of the above captioned Bill 2021-0838.

Nobody questions the need for infrastructure upgrade, repair and maintenance of the storm drainage, sewers and roads in the proposed areas. This is very obvious and accepted. The question is approach and resulting costs based on the course taken. The perspective on what this is all about has been lost. Reason and Common Sense has given way to Exasperation and Anxiety.

This is an infrastructure remediation, repair and maintenance matter. If you want to add bells and whistles, which I can't afford, then you need to pay for it yourself! This is a catch up project without much if any existing funding. Bells and whistles are not necessary, bike lanes, sidewalks, lighting, etc. while nice to have are not necessary. Everything bears a cost, yet some people feel the cost will somehow be taken care of! Well, the math I learned says when I buy something I need to pay for it, I don't go asking someone else to pay for it or hope that a certain government will pick up the tab. When your ship is sinking you look for life jackets, life saving and safety and not for bells and whistles!!! Makeup is not necessary!!!

Yet, the supporters of this Bill 2021-0838 have been led to believe this is a "New Era", this is to include a "Dream Land", with no idea of the costs, funding or feasibility of such monstrosity. That is not remediation, repair and maintenance of roads, storm basins and sewers! There are far too many other neighborhoods in Jacksonville and Florida which offer the "Dream Land". If that is what you are seeking, please, by all means, do so! Changing the character of these neighborhoods and upgrading them to be the "Dream Land" is not remediation of roads, storm basins and sewers!

Many secondary roads are NOT included as part of this solution, exposing those residents and their properties to significant liability and unfair taxation. In order for this to work everyone must be included, that is not the case here!

These are access roads and local residential roads in quiet and private communities, let's keep them at this level. We don't need the additional traffic, noise, pollution and Quality of Life impact resulting from Baymeadows Rd and Southside Blvd traffic if roads are expanded.

A well defined plan is needed to establish costs adequately, this is currently lacking or non-existent, everything is vaguely defined and up in the air. Also, parts or areas of this defined or designated boundaries are not contributing equally and fairly to the funding. Fair assessment by all parties is necessary. But before assessments can be established, a good working definition of what is to be done needs to be agreed upon. You can't arrive at costs without that.

In a new organization of this magnitude there will be many growing pains, errors and lessons with resulting costs, doubling, tripling the proposal or more of this huge undertaking.

Ultimately, as this BCID fails because it starts off on the wrong foot, COJ will need to step in and absorb the pieces, costs and management. This is not uniting Jacksonville, but on the contrary, it is taking us back to pre-1968 with "neighborhoods doing their thing". We know the results of that.

It makes sense for COJ to assume this for many reasons and their involvement from the beginning will ensure it is assessed, planned and done right. COJ possesses the knowhow, experience, organization, track record, vested interest and obligation to address this issue for the residents.

This will create another Taxing Authority for Baymeadows Area Residents. We will now have four (4) Taxing Authorities to deal with, Federal, State, Local and the newly created Community Development District (CDD) or Baymeadows Community Improvement District (BCID) you can call it anything you want, the effect is the same another Taxing Authority!!!

Creation of another Taxing District or Taxing Authority will only serve to make things more complex, cumbersome and divisive for COJ and the City Council. Let's remember the reasons for consolidation, let us move forward not backwards. Let's make sure "The Buck Stops Here" and NOW to avoid having to revisit this issue in the future!

For all the above reasons, explanations and justifications, YES, you need to vote "NO" on this Bill, but more importantly, COJ must assume the role it is charged with to protect, preserve and stand by the residents of Jacksonville as per the mandate and develop a fair, reasonable and adequate solution for the Baymeadows Community Area! Jacksonville is one Municipal jurisdiction in one County, not a series of Community Development Districts (CDDs) spread out as a "Constellation of Neighborhoods"!

Many thanks in advance for your attention and consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Carlos Vega

Jan. 13, 2022

Jacksonville, FL 32256

www.carlvega.com/COJ/BCID2/

References:

[BCID Proposal](#)

[Legislative Bill 2021-0838](#)

[BCID Proposal Analysis](#)

[CC Mtg 1/11/2022 starts at 2hrs 40 min from beginning](#)

[CDDs - Info You Need to Know](#)

[Baymeadows Community Council \(BCC\) Plan](#)

[COJ Public Works Plan](#)

[COJ Ordinances](#)

[COJ Legislative Process](#)

[Jacksonville Redistricting](#)

[Jacksonville History](#)

[Area Demographics](#)

[Private Roads](#)

[Say 'NO', Sign Here](#)