


## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor England  
Vice Mayor Samora  
Commissioner George  
Commissioner Rumrell  
Commissioner Torres

**FROM:** Max Royle, City Manager 

**DATE:** September 16, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Presentations:

- A. Interview of Candidates for Two Alternate Positions on the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board
  - 1) Mr. R. Conner Dowling
  - 2) Mr. Kyle Vincent Lewis
- B. Proclamation to Declare October 2021 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month as Requested by the Betty Griffin Center
- C. Anastasia Island Environmental Stewardship Awards by Ms. Sandra Krempasky, Chair of the Sustainability and Environmental Planning Advisory Committee
- D. Northeast Florida Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan by Representatives of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

### ITEM A. INTERVIEWS

Both the Senior and Junior Alternate positions on the Planning Board need to be filled. Fortunately, the City has an applicant for each. Their applications are attached:

- 1) Pages 1-5, Mr. Dowling
- 2) Pages 6-8, Mr. Lewis

Both have said they will attend your October 4th meeting for the customary interview.

### Action Requested

It is that you interview each applicant in alphabetical order and then decide which one will be the Senior Alternate and which the Junior Alternate.

### ITEM B. PROCLAMATION

It is attached as page 9. Representatives from the Betty Griffin Center will be at your meeting to speak about it.

#### ITEM C. AWARDS

Attached is page 10 is an email from Ms. Krempasky, in which she lists the recipient of each award and the criterion used for selecting the recipients. Ms. Krempasky will be at your meeting to present the awards.

#### ITEM C. COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

Attached as pages 11-12 is an email from Mr. Scott Lahav of the Northeast Regional Council, in which he provides basic information about the plan. The PowerPoint he'll present is attached as pages 13-33.



**ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH CITY COMMISSION  
BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPLICATION**

FOR APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN LAND USE

Date received by City 9/3/2021

Thank you for your expressed interest in being considered for appointment to committees, boards, commissions, or advisory groups appointed by the City Commission. The Commission appreciates your willingness to serve your fellow citizens in a volunteer capacity. Please complete this application to the best of your ability. (You may attach a resume and/or additional data. Please reference attachments in the appropriate section(s).)

Name: R. CONNER DOWLING

Address: 695 16<sup>th</sup> St.

Phone #: 904.770.5277 E-Mail Address: connare@opencityarchitecture.com

How long have you been a legal resident of the City of St. Augustine Beach? 1.5 yrs.

I am a full-time X part-time \_\_\_\_\_ resident.

I am X am not \_\_\_\_\_ a registered voter in St. Johns County.

List all active professional licenses and certifications: LICENSED ARCHITECT  
IN FLORIDA + OREGON

Educational background: Professional Bachelors Degree in ARCHITECTURE  
from UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI 2005, SAHS 2000

Past work experience: SEE RESUME

Please list all civic clubs, professional organizations, or public interest groups of which you are a member or in which you have been active: (attached additional sheet if necessary).

1. American Institute of ARCHITECTS
2. Friends of Matanzas

3. ST. AUGUSTINE ROTARY 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the location and size of all parcels of property in St. Augustine Beach of which you have ownership: 695 16th St, SARGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE

Please list any companies/industries doing business in St. Augustine Beach in which you have a financial interest (i.e., proprietary, partnership, stock holdings, etc.)

OPEN CITY ARCHITECTURE, LLC

Please indicate by preference all City boards, committees, or councils in which you have an interest:

- 1. Code Enforcement Board ☐
- 2. Comprehensive Planning & Zoning Board ☒
- 3. Other ☐

I am available for meetings

- a. During the day only ☐
- b. Evenings only ☐
- c. Anytime ☒

List three (3) personal or professional references:

- 1. Les Thomas, Architect, 904.824.9508
- 2. Phillip McDaniel 904.806.1440
- 3. Joe Boles 904.824.4298

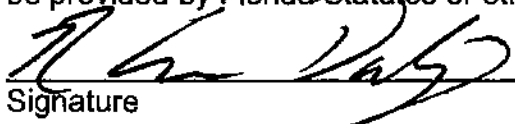
You may use this space for a brief biographical profile or to list certain skills you possess that may be relevant to the appointment you are seeking. Please indicate whether you have had experience with the reading of blueprints, technical drawings or diagrams. (Indicate below if you are attaching a resume.)

SEE RESUME

NOTE: All information provided will become a matter of public record and will be open to the public. If you require special accommodations because of a disability to participate in the application/selection process, you must notify the City Commission in advance. This application will be kept for one (1) year, at which time you must notify the

City Commission of your intent to remain an active applicant and update your application accordingly or it will be removed from the active file.

I hereby authorize the City of St. Augustine Beach or its representatives to verify all information provided, and I further authorize the release of any information by those in possession of such information which may be requested by the City. I certify that all information provided herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a volunteer position provides for no compensation except that as may be provided by Florida Statutes or other enabling legislation.

  
Signature

9/3/21  
Date

Please return completed application to:

The City of St. Augustine Beach  
2200 A1A South  
St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080  
Phone (904) 471-2122  
FAX (904) 471-4108

*Thank you for your interest!*

R. Conner Dowling, AIA  
Principal

conner@opencityarchitecture.com  
904.770.5277  
Licensed Architect OR, FL



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## Practice / Professional

**Open City Architecture – Principal – Saint Augustine, Florida** 2020–Present

Principal Architect/Founder of architecture and design firm based in St. Augustine, Florida, with specialty in Commercial, Institutional, and Residential design.

**Bora Architects – Associate – Portland, Oregon** 2011–2020

Project Designer (PD) and various supporting roles for various project types in all phases of work {Concept Design, Schematic Design (SD), Design Development (DD), Construction Documents (CD) and Construction Administration (CA)}

### K–12 Schools

- De La Salle North Catholic High School, (\$24M) PD lead for 40K sqft renovation and ground up construction for a new high school campus, SD through CD – Portland, OR
- La Salle Catholic College Preparatory, (\$3.5M) PD lead for approx. 25K sqft of renovation and new construction additions to existing campus, Concept Design through CA
- Crystal Springs Uplands School Middle School, concept design studies and support for new 45K sqft Middle School and surrounding Campus – Hillsborough, CA
- Faubion School PK–8, (\$100K) Project Architect/Manager for additional scope addressing various user requests for interior and exterior, SD through CA – Portland, OR

### Higher Education

- University of Washington, Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) (\$14M) PD lead and construction administrator for tenant build out of 85K sqft innovation and business graduate program building, Concept Design through CA – Bellevue, WA (Design/Build Project with Skanska USA)
- Community College of Denver, South Classroom Building renovation (\$12M) PD lead for renovation of 100K sqft existing community college classroom and administration building, redesign of exterior 15K sqft courtyard, Concept Design through CA – Denver, CO
- Oregon State University, Learning Innovation Center (\$53M) Co-Designer and Construction Manager for 90K sqft new classroom and administration building, DD through CA – Corvallis, OR
- Community College of Denver, Confluence Building, (\$30M) design studies and support for new administration and classroom building, Construction Documents through CA – Denver, CO
- Harvey Mudd College, Teaching & Learning Center, design studies and support for new building – Claremont, CA

### Commercial

- Microsoft, Troon Campus Plaza and meeting PODs, PD lead for remodel of 20K sqft corporate office park plaza and construction of new, small, meeting room 'Pods', Concept Design through CA – Redmond, WA (Design/Build Project with Skanska USA)
- Water Avenue Yards, Co- PD for development study and concept design of waterfront parcel located in the transforming eastside industrial neighborhood, Concept Design – Portland, OR

- Google, Tenant Improvement for People Ops, design team member for 400k sqft tenant improvement of Google's People Operations department, SD through CD – Mountain View, CA

#### Professional and Management Qualifications

- Full design leadership, client meeting facilitation, construction detailing, consultant coordination, code research/analysis, accessibility, material/product research, permitting, construction administration, contract review, specification review, building science/ performance (LEED)
- Marketing and development: proposal development/ production, project interviewing

#### Architecture W – Architectural Designer – Portland, Oregon 2009–2011

Architectural designer and various supporting roles for various project types in concept and schematic design phases of work.

- City of Portland, Memorial Coliseum Adaptive Re-Use Concept Design – Portland, OR
- Embassy of the State of Kuwait, conceptual design – Tokyo, Japan
- Newark Visitor Information Center, design competition – Newark, NJ

#### Arquitectonica – Architectural Designer – Miami, FL and Paris, FR 2005–2008

Architectural designer and various supporting roles for various project types in all phases of work.

- Ransom Everglades Middle School, PD lead for new administrative and gymnasium building, SD through CD – Miami, FL
- Eos Office Building – building envelope design for 9 story office tower, SD through CD – Paris, France
- SmartCity Mixed-Use Development – architectural designer/project assist for office, condo, hotel and residential development, SD through DD – Malta
- Tour Mozart / Bureau d'Equwater Office Tower – Project assist for 25 story office tower, CD – Paris, France
- Waterfront Mixed-Use Development, with Foster and Partners, concept design – Monaco

#### Les Thomas Architect – Architectural Intern – St. Augustine, FL 2001–2005

Architectural intern providing supporting roles for various project types in all phases of work.

- City of St. Augustine, West Augustine Community Center – St. Augustine, FL
- St. Johns County, St. Augustine Amphitheater– St. Augustine, FL
- Limelight Theater Remodel – St. Augustine, FL
- Various Tenant Improvements in Historic Buildings and Retail Spaces – St. Augustine, FL
- Various Private Residences – St. Augustine, FL

#### Education

University of Miami – Miami, FL – 2000–2005

Professional Bachelor of Architecture, Cum Laude

#### Civic and Community Involvement

- Architects Without Borders Volunteer Team Member – Portland, Oregon – 2008–2009
- Architects in Schools Program – Portland, Oregon – 2014–2015



**ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH CITY COMMISSION  
BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPLICATION**

**FOR APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN LAND USE**

Date received by City 9/2/2021

Thank you for your expressed interest in being considered for appointment to committees, boards, commissions, or advisory groups appointed by the City Commission. The Commission appreciates your willingness to serve your fellow citizens in a volunteer capacity. Please complete this application to the best of your ability. (You may attach a resume and/or additional data. Please reference attachments in the appropriate section(s).)

Name: Kyle Vincent Lewis

Address: 108 F Street, SAINT Augustine, FL 32080

Phone #: 215.499.1896 E-Mail Address: Kyle@Leader.com

How long have you been a legal resident of the City of St. Augustine Beach? 3 yrs

I am a full-time ☒ part-time ☐ resident.

I am ☒ am not ☐ a registered voter in St. Johns County.

List all active professional licenses and certifications: FRLA - SAFE STAFF  
Cert. Water Quality Tech.

Educational background: Bachelor's in Science - Business Mgmt + Tourism

Past work experience: Film Production, NYC - Food + Beverage  
Manager - New Hope, P.A. - Water Quality Technician - P.A.

Please list all civic clubs, professional organizations, or public interest groups of which you are a member or in which you have been active: (attached additional sheet if necessary).

1. Water Quality Association 2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the location and size of all parcels of property in St. Augustine Beach of which you have ownership: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any companies/industries doing business in St. Augustine Beach in which you have a financial interest (i.e., proprietary, partnership, stock holdings, etc.)

Embassy Suites

Please indicate by preference all City boards, committees, or councils in which you have an interest:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Code Enforcement Board                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2. Comprehensive Planning & Zoning Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Other                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

I am available for meetings

- |                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. During the day only | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b. Evenings only       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c. Anytime             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

List three (3) personal or professional references:

1. Karie Ursery - Embassy H.R. Director : 407.244.2021
2. Matt Robinson - Independent Contractor - 904.577.9664
3. Richard Ranick - Dean / Golf Coach - 904.451.0753


You may use this space for a brief biographical profile or to list certain skills you possess that may be relevant to the appointment you are seeking. Please indicate whether you have had experience with the reading of blueprints, technical drawings or diagrams. (Indicate below if you are attaching a resume.)

I have a brief overall understanding of blueprints and technical drawings from my experience in the food+beverage industry, as well as having family and friends in the construction business.

NOTE: All information provided will become a matter of public record and will be open to the public. If you require special accommodations because of a disability to participate in the application/selection process, you must notify the City Commission in advance. This application will be kept for one (1) year, at which time you must notify the

City Commission of your intent to remain an active applicant and update your application accordingly or it will be removed from the active file.

I hereby authorize the City of St. Augustine Beach or its representatives to verify all information provided, and I further authorize the release of any information by those in possession of such information which may be requested by the City. I certify that all information provided herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a volunteer position provides for no compensation except that as may be provided by Florida Statutes or other enabling legislation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

9/21/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return completed application to:

The City of St. Augustine Beach  
2200 A1A South  
St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080  
Phone (904) 471-2122  
FAX (904) 471-4108

*Thank you for your interest!*

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a serious and pervasive crime affecting millions of women, men, children, and communities in the United States every year; and

**WHEREAS**, all persons have a basic right to feel safe from harm, especially in their homes, yet more than 1,300 helpline calls were made to Betty Griffin Center in St. Johns County last year; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence affects people of all ages, racial, socioeconomic, educational religious, and occupational segments of our society, especially children; and

**WHEREAS**, children from violent homes are physically abused or seriously neglected at a rate significantly higher than the national average and have greater risks of alcohol/drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, cognitive and developmental problems as well as fear, anxiety and guilt; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is not a private family matter but a crime, the consequences of which reach with devastating effect on the communities, schools, and workplaces of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence represents a pattern of assault and coercive behavior that will escalate in frequency and severity if intervention does not occur,

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security and humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness and education about domestic violence and needed as well as uniform efforts on the part of government, health professionals, law enforcement, religious organizations, educators, and community associations to address domestic violence through prevention, intervention, and treatment for victims and perpetrators.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, the City of St. Augustine Beach does hereby designate the month of October 2021 as **Violence Awareness Month** in the City of St. Augustine Beach and remember that each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.

PASSED AND ADOPTED in regular session this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Max Royle, City Manager



\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret England, Mayor

## **Max Royle**

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**From:** Sandra Krempasky <sandra.krempasky@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:48 AM  
**To:** Max Royle  
**Subject:** AIESA Information

Mr. Royle:

We selected:

Sea Oats Chapter - Florida Native Plant Society as the Group Award Winner (non-profit)

Dr. Sandy Bond as the Individual Award Winner (non-profit)

No 'for profit' individuals or groups were nominated this year.

The criterion used in selection - demonstration of

- reducing environmental impacts;
- conserving resources;
- enhancing ecosystems;
- restoring impacts;
- proven ongoing culture of environmental stewardship;
- environmental education and outreach opportunities;
- commitment to growth of sustainable programs;
- innovation and exceptional achievement in environmental stewardship.

Let me know if you need further information. Thanks.

Sandra

## Max Royle

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**From:** Sean Lahav <slahav@nefrc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 10:55 AM  
**To:** Max Royle  
**Cc:** Forde, Sheron; Payne, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** OUTSIDE ATTACHMENT:RE: Covid Recovery Plan  
**Attachments:** NEFRC - St. Augustine Beach 10-4-21.pptx

\* \* \* \* \* This message originated from outside of your organization! DO NOT click any links or open any attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please forward this email to IT@cityofsab.org if you believe the email is suspicious. \* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Royle, please find the presentation attached with a synopsis of the presentation below.

“Northeast Florida COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan” Mr. Sean Lahav, Resiliency Coordinator, NEFRC

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC), a government agency that serves seven counties and 25 municipalities, recently announced the official release of the “Northeast Florida COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan.” The recovery plan, which outlines detailed recommendations for economic recovery, was developed by the “Northeast Florida Economic Resilience Task Force,” a policy group of more than 20 leaders from across the region representing local governments, regional economic development organizations, private sector companies, and nonprofit organizations.

Task Force meetings facilitated in Spring 2021 identified policy recommendations across three priority areas: (1) infrastructure; (2) small business relief and support; and (3) equity. These recommendations ultimately informed the structure of the economic recovery plan. Recommendations included in the plan relate to expanding affordable broadband access, further developing public-private partnerships, strengthening mental health resources, expanding small business support services to rural areas, and a wide array of other priority topic areas.

Mr. Sean Lahav, Resiliency Coordinator for the NEFRC, will address specific components of the economic recovery plan as they relate to local needs and priorities in each individual county. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nefrc.org/taskforce>

### **Sean D. Lahav, MPA**

Resiliency Coordinator  
Northeast Florida Regional Council  
100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL-32202  
Phone: (904) 279-0880 ext. 111

**From:** Payne, Elizabeth <epayne@nefrc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 10:22 AM  
**To:** Max Royle <mroyle@cityofsab.org>  
**Cc:** Sean Lahav <slahav@nefrc.org>; Forde, Sheron <sforde@nefrc.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Covid Recovery Plan

Max



Thank you for reaching out. NEFRC is thrilled with the opportunity to present the work of the Northeast Florida Economic Recovery Taskforce with St. Augustine Beach.

Mr. Sean Lahav will be providing the presentation and has a PowerPoint that he can send to you. The agenda item can be titled "Northeast Florida COVID -19 Economic Recovery Plan". Attached is a copy of the Plan for reference.

Please let me know what else you need from us.

Thanks!

*Beth Payne, AICP*

Chief Executive Officer

Northeast Florida Regional Council

904.279.0880 x 133

904.233.0423 - cell

[epayne@nefrc.org](mailto:epayne@nefrc.org)



**From:** Max Royle <[mroyle@cityofsab.org](mailto:mroyle@cityofsab.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 10:12 AM

**To:** Payne, Elizabeth <[epayne@nefrc.org](mailto:epayne@nefrc.org)>

**Subject:** Covid Recovery Plan

Ms. Payne,

I have scheduled the Northeast Florida Recovery Plan presentation by members of the NEFRC for the St. Augustine Beach City Commission's October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, but I've received no information from NEFRC that I can put in the agenda books. Can you send it to me? Also, representatives from your organization will need to be at the 10-4 meeting to make the presentation. If PowerPoint is to be used, it will have to be loaded before the meeting.

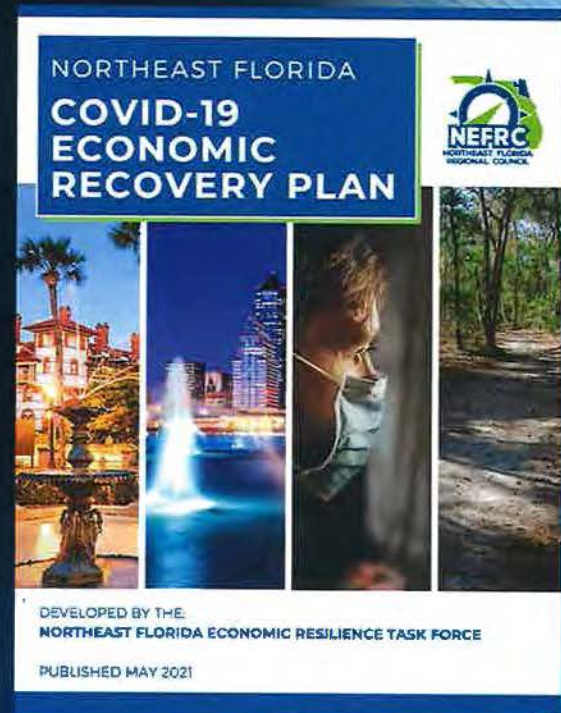
Max



NORTHEAST FLORIDA  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Northeast Florida COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan

SEAN LAHAV, RESILIENCY COORDINATOR







**NORTHEAST FLORIDA  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**



***BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER***

***SERVING BAKER, CLAY, DUVAL, FLAGLER, NASSAU, PUTNAM AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES***



## Defining Economic Resilience

- **Economic resilience** refers to the ability of economies to “bounce back” to normal conditions after losing function because of an uncontrollable event.
- Resilient economies have the capacity to quickly respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations such as a global health pandemic or hurricane.
- For resilience strategies to be successful, **equity** must be an integrated component of plans – ensuring that ALL who live and work, within a given community, have access to a good education, affordable housing and transportation, and are able to **prosper**.

Updated: 1 April 2020 | Updates Highlighted in RED

## Dealing with Impacts from COVID-19 Resources for Small Businesses in Northeast Florida

Sean Lahav, MPA | Resiliency Coordinator | Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC)  
Phone: (904) 279-0800 ext. 111 | Email: [slahav@nefrc.org](mailto:slahav@nefrc.org)

### FEDERAL & STATE GUIDANCE

- **U.S. Small Business Administration: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources** – Health and government officials are working together to maintain the safety, security, and health of the American people. Small businesses are encouraged to do their part to keep their employees, customers, and themselves healthy.  
<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers** – The following interim guidance may help prevent workplace exposures to acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, in non-healthcare settings. The guidance also provides planning considerations if there are more widespread outbreaks of COVID-19.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- **U.S. Department of Labor: Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19** – This guidance is intended for planning purposes. Employers and workers should use this planning guidance to help identify risk levels in workplace settings and to determine any appropriate control measures to implement. Additional guidance may be needed as COVID-19 outbreak conditions change, including as new information about the virus, its transmission, and impacts, becomes available.  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3980.pdf>
- **Florida Department of Health: What you need to know about COVID-19 in Florida** – Adults 50 and older and those with underlying medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung disease are more likely to develop serious illness. Here's what you can do right now.  
<https://floridahhs.gov/covid19/>



## Forecasting the Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Northeast Florida:

### Utilizing REMI PI+ Model

Published on June 2, 2020

Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC)  
Jack Shad, Economic Development Project Manager  
Sean Lahav, Resiliency Coordinator



### Results Summary:

- Overall, the model suggests that the economic effects of even a "best case scenario" will be severe.
- Northeast Florida will see effects about 15% more severe than the national average.
- The model suggests that a 2.7% decline in national gross domestic product (GDP) will result in the loss of more than 41,000 jobs locally, 4.2% of the workforce.
- Job losses will likely not be spread evenly across the regional economy but will be concentrated in certain industries. According to the model, Northeast Florida will see the highest percentage job losses in the following industries: Construction, Finance & Insurance, Real Estate, Health Care, Accommodation & Food Service, and Other Services.

Northeast Florida Regional Council | 100 Festival Park Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32256 | [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org)



# Northeast Florida Economic Resilience Task Force

## Task Force Membership List

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Valerie Jenkins, Wells Fargo                | • Taco Pope, Nassau County                    |
| • Bill Garrison, Jimerson Birr                | • Jeff Sheffield, North Florida TPO           |
| • Jessie Spradley Jr., NEFBA                  | • Dr. Perry Bechtel, Mayo Clinic              |
| • Denise Bevan, City of Palm Coast            | • Darryl Register, Baker Chamber              |
| • Jonathan Griffith, City of Palatka          | • Bill Lazar, St. Johns Housing Partnership   |
| • Greg Anderson, JAXUSA Partnership           | • Kristopher Smith, LISC Jacksonville         |
| • Cathy Hagan, SBDC at UNF                    | • Reuben Franklin, City of St. Augustine      |
| • Hon. Roxanne Horvath, City of St. Augustine | • Bob Porter, St. Johns County Chamber        |
| • Wendell Chindra, Clay Chamber               | • Hon. Jeff Rawls, Putnam County              |
| • Bruce Ferguson, CareerSource NE Florida     | • Rebecca Livingston, CareerSource NE Florida |

## Task Force Deliverable Timeline



# NORTHEAST FLORIDA ECONOMIC RESILIENCE TASKFORCE BRIEFING GUIDE

Establishing Regional Context for  
COVID-19 Economic Recovery

Published November 2020  
Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC)



### 3: PRE-PANDEMIC DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



#### Section Purpose

The purpose of this section is to provide a detailed overview of pre-pandemic economic conditions across Northwest Florida. These conditions can be used as a baseline for developing a better understanding of where the regional economy stood before the coronavirus pandemic enveloped the globe in March of 2020. This section is divided by individual county, where for each jurisdiction, the following resources are provided: (a) demographic overview and summary; (b) quality of life and demographic data measure fact sheets; and (c) GIS maps that provide spatial interpretation.

#### Individual County Demographic Analysis Explanation

The county demographic breakdowns in Sections 3.1 through 3.7 provide greater detail for several demographic indicators, including population growth, unemployment, median household income, and geographic placement. These indicators are evaluated by age group, race/ethnicity, and gender, providing a broader view of each county before COVID-19. The American Community Survey 5-year estimates are the data source used for the breakdown. 2011 serves as the baseline for the majority of charts and graphs. 2012 is the most recent year available for data on all seven counties. In terms of race and origin, the four largest groups nationwide are white, black, Asian, and Hispanic. The other groups comprise a small percentage of the population. However, these are referenced, where comments are relevant due to the sample size under the data point being close to the county average.

#### Regionwide Demographic Indicators

Section 3.8 provides regional data related to median income, vehicle access, and education. This is a blend of these issues with the regional data of the majority of the data currently relevant to the regional issues for COVID-19.

November 2020 November Economic Strategy Study 10/10/20

### 3.7: St. Johns County Demographics Summary

**Population Changes**  
From 2011 to 2018, the population of St. Johns County increased by 26.5%. The age group increased 32 years and over experienced the highest growth (an increase of 55%). Age 25 to 34 increased by 20% and age 35 to 44 increased by 20%. Each of the two largest race and origin groups saw their population grow. Asians increased by 67%, Hispanics by 44%, blacks by 26%, and whites by 20%.

#### Unemployment

Regarding unemployment, only one age group (18 to 24) was above 6% unemployment in 2018. That group had an 18.3% unemployment rate. Black unemployment during the time was 12.4%.

#### Household Income

Median household income in St. Johns County increased by 30.3% during the time (2011-2018). In 2018, St. Johns County had the highest median household income of any county in Florida. By 2018, the county had the highest median income of any county in Florida. By 2018, the county had the highest median income of any county in Florida. By 2018, the county had the highest median income of any county in Florida.

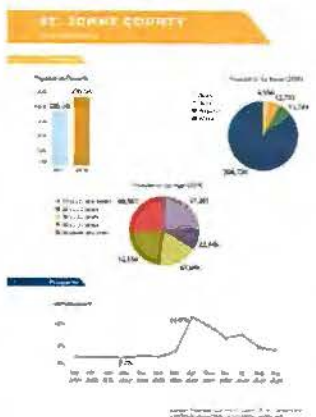
#### Educational Attainment

65.3% of those were high school graduates or higher in 2018, whereas 22.7% of them earned a bachelor's degree or higher. That number decreased to 16.1% by 2018. For 1% and 2% of those are those who have a master's degree or higher. Residents with a bachelor's degree earned \$24,344 more than high school graduates in 2018. Those with a graduate or professional degree earned almost \$20,000 more than residents with a high school degree. Persons with some college or an associate degree averaged about \$7,000 more than high school graduates.

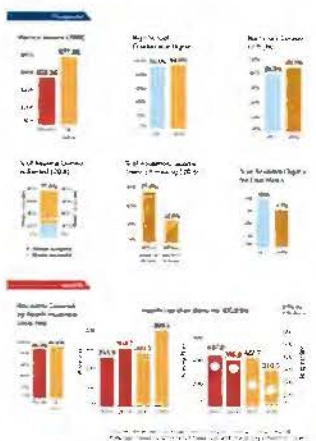
#### Main Takeaways

- Largest population growth 32 years and over (55% increase); Hispanic population increased by almost 30%.
- 18 to 24 age group with highest unemployment rate above 6%.
- In 2018, St. Johns County had the highest median income in the state.
- Had the highest percentage of blacks and Hispanics who earned 4-year college degrees in the region.

November 2020 November Economic Strategy Study 10/10/20



November 2020 November Economic Strategy Study 10/10/20



November 2020 November Economic Strategy Study 10/10/20



November 2020 November Economic Strategy Study 10/10/20



November 2020 November Economic Strategy Study 10/10/20



NORTHEAST FLORIDA  
**COVID-19  
ECONOMIC  
RECOVERY PLAN**



DEVELOPED BY THE:  
**NORTHEAST FLORIDA ECONOMIC RESILIENCE TASK FORCE**

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This plan would have not been possible without the support and commitment of partners at the local, regional, and national levels.



Special thank you to the partner organizations that made this possible!

## TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Established in August 2020, the Northeast Florida Economic Resilience Task Force is a policy group comprised of 20 regional leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. These members were responsible for developing this plan.





## INFRASTRUCTURE POLICIES

### 1.1 Expand affordable broadband access

In an era of remote structures in work, telehealth, education, and other realms, reliable and affordable access to broadband has become more integral than ever before to the economic viability of urban and rural communities

### 1.2 Build and modernize rural infrastructure

The State of Florida is projected to add 4 million people to its population by 2032. This population growth, whether desirable or not, will undoubtedly have an impact on rural communities

### 1.3 Create best-in-class infrastructure investment

Florida is the 3rd most populated state in the U.S. with 900 people moving to the state every day. In managing current growth and preparing for future growth, smart investments are critical

### 1.4 Confront the challenges of legacy infrastructure

COVID-19 has brought into focus the challenges faced by low-income and minority communities in dealing with the impacts of historical infrastructure gaps

### 1.1 Expand affordable broadband access

In an era of remote structures in work, telehealth, education, and other realms, reliable and affordable access to broadband has become more integral than ever before to the economic viability of urban and rural communities

#### Context

- HB 969, passed by the Florida Legislature in 2021, tasked the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) with several directives related to identifying gaps in broadband access across the state
- The Florida Broadband Initiative maintains, "Every household and business in Florida should have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet Services"

#### Policy Mechanisms

- Initiate partnerships with state agencies, local and county governments, and other entities to kickstart broadband investments
- Explore the viability of establishing a Rural Broadband Pilot Program, based on lessons learned from the Eastside Jacksonville Broadband Program
- Leverage anchor institutions (such as schools, libraries, medical facilities, and government buildings) to provide rapid community internet services
- Improve broadband coverage maps and identify where gaps exist
- Coordinate and expand broadband affordability programs
- Track and monitor ongoing legislation related to broadband
- Explore the viability of establishing a regional broadband working group to share best practices and evaluate/recommend opportunities for implementation
- Identify funding and financing sources for broadband deployment
- Utilize Federal Stimulus allocations to specifically address gaps in broadband infrastructure across urban and rural communities

#### Case Study Examples

- Cambria County, Pennsylvania announced the completion of a \$11 million project designed to expand the availability of broadband internet service in underserved parts of the county's rural northern half. Funding for the project came from Cambria County's share of the CARES Act
- Smart North Florida is a newly created non-profit organization that is currently involved in developing a trial project to provide broadband access to the East Jacksonville neighborhood. This project uses newly developed OnCo CBRS transmitter devices to create a wide area private LTE network which is faster and has a wider range than current WIFI systems – the entire 2 square mile East Jacksonville neighborhood is covered by only 9 transmitters



## SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF

### 2.1 Strengthen relationships across ecosystem

With many partners assisting small businesses across the region, there is a need to further integrate the business support environment to not only include small business assistance programs but also a collaboration between entrepreneurship and other similar programs to strengthen the region's competitiveness.

### 2.2 Identify and communicate scalable best practices

The pandemic's effect on small businesses and the environment in which small business operates has heightened the need to identify and communicate scalable best practices. Small businesses must be able to adapt not only to the pandemic but also to norms and regulations that will continue to change in the years to come.

### 2.3 Leverage public-private partnerships

The region's ability to spur and support innovation and adaption for small businesses is essential for these businesses to adapt to the challenges ahead in economic recovery. The ability to leverage private-public partnerships will assist the region's businesses to become more innovative and adaptable.

### 2.4 Utilize investment-based crowdsourcing

The use of investment-based crowdsourcing can provide the needed innovation finance tools that small businesses can utilize to support creation, retention, and growth.

### 2.5 Expand urban services to rural areas

With many small businesses confronting challenges from the economic downturn, there is a need for small businesses to have direct access to courses, mentorship programs, assistance from potential investors, and other resources. Many of these services, however, are heavily concentrated in urban areas. Expanding access to these urban resources is vital for rural small business owners across the region.

### 2.1 Strengthen Relationships Across the Ecosystem

With many partners assisting small businesses across the region, there is a need to further integrate the business support environment to not only include small business assistance programs but also a collaboration between entrepreneurship and other similar programs to strengthen the region's competitiveness.



#### Context

- The development of a regional ecosystem, one that incorporates a collaborative partnership model between county chamber of commerce partners and business development centers, is an important step to spur greater economic development.
- At the 2/19/2021 Economic Resilience Taskforce meeting, Dr. Carlton Robinson from the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce provided a visual of the limited number of small business resources that exist outside of the region's urban areas. The development of a digital ecosystem will provide the resources and support small businesses need to succeed moving into the future.

#### Policy Mechanisms

- Driving an interconnected regional business pipeline is essential to further interconnect the region and provide a more competitive environment for the region overall. The Federal Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Program could assist in growing the region's participation in the research and development sector of the economy.
- Explore the viability of establishing a partnership non-profit with all regional and county small business assistance actors to assist in regional collaboration between these groups and assist small businesses in acquiring necessary resources.
- Develop and utilize a concept map for the region to connect small businesses within the region to the nearest resources based on their jurisdiction and location.

#### Case Study Examples

- If possible, a regional business development agency or nonprofit could collaborate with the state to apply for the Small Business Administration's Federal and State Technology Partnership to increase proposals for the SBIR/STTR awards to grow the region's research and development sector. Wichita State University, a regional public university in Kansas, is the central location for the state in assisting small businesses in commercializing high-tech innovation.
- The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce's digital transformation program is focused on improving business processes, customer experience outcomes, and identifying channels of distribution.
- JaxSmallBizHelp.org and NorthFloridaSmallBizHelp.org represent government and non-profit organizations that assist small businesses with resources. The mission is to bring partners together to share information, to exchange ideas, to coordinate assistance activities, and to advocate on behalf of their small business members/clients.

## DRIVING EQUITY

### 3.1 Enhance mental health resources

The toll on mental health due to the pandemic is widespread, with many citizens requiring mental health resources, which have been historically underfunded.

### 3.2 Protect essential workers in vulnerable sectors

Our region and economy rely on workers that face great risks due to the nature of their jobs and require resources and support to ensure the best possible protection from COVID-19 transmission.

### 3.3 Protect landlords and tenants

Low- to moderate-income tenants and small, independent property owners are bearing the brunt of the pandemic, inducing economic downturn and require broad rental assistance.

### 3.4 Ensure all have access to affordable housing

The pandemic has worsened the state's considerable affordable housing shortage, with cost-burdened households at greater risk of eviction and foreclosures. Supporting affordable housing infrastructure across the region has become critical.

### 3.1 Enhance mental health resources

The toll on mental health due to the pandemic is widespread, with many citizens requiring mental health resources, which have been historically underfunded.



#### Context

- Several existing healthcare care organizations such as the Healthcare Coalitions (both Northeast and North Central) and the Health Planning Councils (Northeast and West Florida) work with healthcare facilities in the seven-county region on a span of issues that include mental health services and providers.
- Engaging organizations with current programs, knowledge, and relationships can more effectively and efficiently understand the present mental health situation in Northeast Florida and what additional services, funds, and resources are needed.

#### Policy Mechanisms

- Advance parity of esteem and address the inequities between mental and physical health care by engaging with mental health organizations to better understand their needs and to identify where gaps in care exist.
- Provide Mental Health First Aid training to enhance knowledge about mental health and substance-use issues, reduce its stigma, and improve responsiveness to signs of an emerging problem or crisis.
- Explore the viability of hosting recurring virtual town halls on mental health to discuss and raise awareness of mental health challenges and resources.
- Develop a means for residents to get immediate mental health assistance, such as through a three-digit prevention lifeline number or a crisis text line, and build upon existing programs designed to help communities deal with trauma.
- Engage communities of color and reduce barriers to accessing treatment by partnering with community and faith-based organizations to identify and respond to specific needs in culturally appropriate ways.

#### Case Study Examples

- Alachua County, Florida, developed an evidence-based strategy to assist county employees in identifying and appropriately responding to mental health issues. The county's training initiative was recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties.
- The City of Jacksonville is working with Hearts 4 Minds, a volunteer organization, to raise awareness about mental health.
- An effort is underway to create a "drop-in mental health clinic" somewhere along State Road 100 in Flagler County. This is similar in concept to medical clinics that offer health services to people without the need for an appointment, are generally open longer hours, and can even offer 24-hour services.



# American Rescue Plan Resource Center



[www.flicg.org/american-rescue-plan-resources/](http://www.flicg.org/american-rescue-plan-resources/)

## ARPA Estimated Allocations for NEFL

County/Municipality	Allocations	County/Municipality	Allocations
Baker County	\$5,665,100	Clay County	\$42,522,575
Glen St. Mary	\$193,302	Green Cove Springs	\$3,604,246
Mocclenny	\$2,916,342	Orange Park	\$3,708,041
		Keystone Heights	\$645,882
		Penney Farms	\$350,045
Duval County	\$349,565,161		
Atlantic Beach		Flagler County	\$22,319,251
Baldwin		Palm Coast	\$12,672,984
Jacksonville	\$163,814,476	Beverly Beach	\$180,696
Jacksonville Beach		Bunnell	\$1,235,714
Neptune Beach		Flagler Beach	\$2,152,798
		Marineland	\$4,622
Nassau County	\$17,188,273		
Callahan	\$571,502	Putnam County	\$14,452,889
Fernandina Beach	\$5,533,906	Palatka	\$4,391,742
Hilliard	\$1,371,185	Interlachen	\$618,147
		Pomona Park	\$386,604
St. Johns County	\$51,331,505	Weloka	\$301,299
St. Augustine	\$6,477,725	Crescent City	\$645,041
St. Augustine Beach	\$2,943,236		



# Eligible ARPA Project Focus Areas

- **Behavioral Healthcare:** New or enhanced state and local government services that may be needed to meet mental health, substance use, and other behavioral needs.
- **Small Businesses:** Loans and grants to mitigate financial hardship; Loans, grants, and in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics; Technical Assistance.
- **Investing in Housing & Neighborhoods:** Services to support individuals experiencing homelessness; Affordable housing development; Housing vouchers, residential counseling, navigation assistance.
- **Water and Sewer infrastructure:** Includes improvements to infrastructure, such as buildings or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems; Eligible uses aligned to Environmental Protection Agency project categories across the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- **Broadband Infrastructure:** Focus on households and businesses without a wireline connection capable of reliably delivering 25 Mbps download/ 3 Mbps upload; Fund projects that deliver reliable service (minimum 100 Mbps download/100 Mbps upload speeds unless impracticable); Complement broadband investments made through the separate Capital Projects Fund.

# Model Example: Nassau Prosperity Plan



- Nassau County developed a prosperity plan to guide the spending of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding.
- Focus of CARES Act was on economic stabilization; whereas focus of ARP is on prosperity.
- Nassau Prosperity Plan can be utilized as a reference example to guide spending decisions in other jurisdictions.



# EDA's Investing in America's Communities

- Build Back Better Regional Challenge (\$1 billion)
- Good Jobs Challenge (\$500 million)
- Economic Adjustment Assistance Challenge (\$500 million)
- Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Grants (\$750 million)
- Statewide Planning, Research, and Networks Grants (\$90 million)



## Technical Assistance Opportunities

- Local governments can utilize recovery plan as a reference for informing ARPA spending decisions.
- NEFRC can assist with local ARPA planning needs related to data collection and lessons learned from other local governments.
- NEFRC, as the designated Economic Development District of Northeast Florida, can assist local governments with additional EDA funding opportunities that were recently announced (i.e., grant development process and writing, inclusion in the regional CEDS plan, liaison to Florida EDA officer).



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## Links to Recovery Plan Materials

- [Northeast Florida Economic Resilience Task Force](#)
- [Northeast Florida COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan](#)
- [Economic Resilience Task Force Briefing Guide](#)



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