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MEDIA CONTACT:
Jayne Behrle
407-656-4111 ext. 5478
jbehrle@cwgd.com

City of Winter Garden and Orange County Approve Extension of Winter Garden CRA

WINTER GARDEN, Fla. – The Orange County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted on March 8, 2022, to extend the Winter Garden Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for 10 years. The City of Winter Garden had approved the extension one month earlier at a City Commission meeting.

The 10-year extension will allow the Winter Garden CRA to leverage the redevelopment success in Downtown Winter Garden to benefit East Winter Garden. It is estimated that over \$20 million will be generated during this timeframe and at least 75% of these funds will be spent in East Winter Garden to revitalize the community.

"The time has come for us to build up our community and continue to thrive here in East Winter Garden for the next twenty years and beyond," said Jamie Holley, East Winter Garden resident, CRA Advisory Board member, and president of One Winter Garden, an organization created to advocate for East Winter Garden and work within the community to bring everyone together.

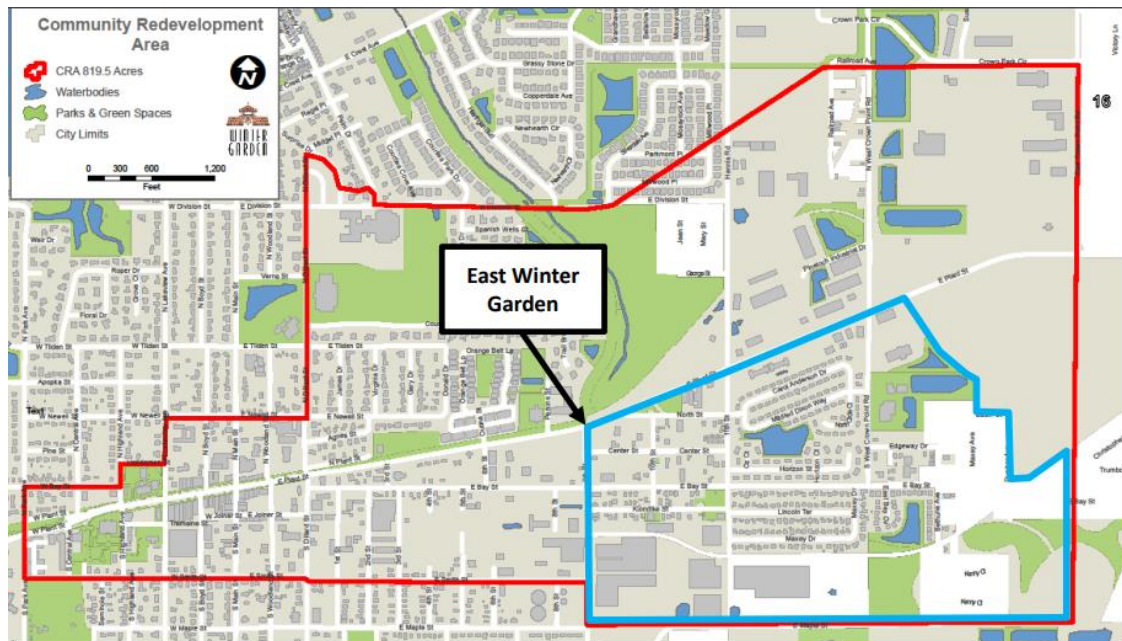
Back in 2018, the City approved the East Winter Garden Plan with the hope of obtaining the CRA extension to pay for many of the improvements envisioned in the plan. At that time, the City of Winter Garden hired Dover Kohl & Partners out of Coral Gables to work with the

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community to develop the plan. Dover Kohl & Partners will be brought back in next month to assist in fine-tuning the East Winter Garden Plan.

“The City will know that we have succeeded when the families that are living in East Winter Garden today are living and thriving in this community 10 years from now,” stated City Manager Jon C. Williams.

The City of Winter Garden and Orange County also just completed an annexation of an enclave within the CRA allowing the annexed area to also be added to the CRA. The map shows the CRA area and the East Winter Garden area where 75% of the revenues will be spent.



"I am so grateful to have a forward-thinking and community-focused municipal partner in Winter Garden. Their level of engagement with existing residents since 2017 has prioritized residents' needs," said District 1 Orange County Commissioner Nicole H. Wilson. "I look forward to supporting this effort further in the future."

Incorporated in 1908, Winter Garden spans 18 miles and is home to nearly 48,000 residents and over 2,000 businesses. Located on the southern shore of Lake Apopka, 20 minutes

west of Orlando in Orange County, this former citrus town embodies a wealth of historical, cultural, and natural assets including a historic downtown and an award-winning bike trail. Winter Garden's unique combination of small-town charm coupled with contemporary amenities makes it an ideal location to live and work. Its appeal and desirability has been recognized nationally, including a 2019 ranking by *Money Magazine* as one of the best places to live in America.

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City of Winter Garden

300 W. Plant Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787

407-656-4111



Winter Garden CRA Advisory Board Members Chloe Johnson-Brunson and Jamie Holley (left to right)