



Property Appraiser Hillsborough County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER BOB HENRIQUEZ ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT TO TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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TAMPA -- After an extensive search of qualified candidates, Hillsborough County Property Appraiser Bob Henriquez has named Ramond "Ray" Chiaramonte to the Independent Oversight Committee for the Hillsborough County transportation referendum.

The referendum, which calls for an additional penny sales tax in Hillsborough County, was recently approved by voters to fund the region's transportation projects. The Independent Oversight Committee is being formed to ensure tax dollars will be spent properly, fairly and transparently for the improvement of county roads and mass transit.

As stated in the referendum's charter amendment, one member of the oversight committee shall be appointed by the county property appraiser, a position held by Henriquez the past six years. The charter requires the appointee to be an individual who is a "land-use or real estate expert." After interviewing several candidates, Henriquez selected Chiaramonte based on his decades of experience in these fields.

"We had an outstanding group of applicants for this appointment, so it was a very difficult decision," Henriquez said. "But Ray's 40-plus years of land-use experience and his hands-on knowledge of both local and regional transit issues made him the clear choice."

Chiaramonte, a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners, is the former Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA). He is also the former Executive Director at both the Hillsborough County Planning Commission and Metropolitan Planning Organization. He has extensive experience in community planning and design, having led one of the first Hillsborough County comprehensive planning efforts to include sustainable growth and protection of urban, suburban and rural lifestyles.

“I am very excited to be selected to serve on the Oversight Committee for the transportation tax referendum,” Chiaramonte said. “I have dreamed of the day when Hillsborough County, with the support of our voters, would move to the next level by improving all our transportation systems.

“This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for government to show it can effectively implement what the voters have asked for in a fair and efficient way. This is a critical step for Tampa and Hillsborough County to move forward and I am so glad to be a part of it.”

According the charter amendment, the Independent Oversight Committee will also be composed of: four individuals appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, two of which are experts in either transportation, planning, sustainability, engineering, or construction; one individual from each county municipality, appointed by the mayor thereof; one additional member from each municipality for each 200,000 residents in such municipality, appointed by the legislative body of that municipality; two individuals from the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART), appointed by the HART board of directors; one attorney, who is a member of the Florida Bar, appointed by the Clerk of the Court; and one certified public accountant, appointed by the Hillsborough County Tax Collector.

The amendment also states that “no one currently serving as an elected or appointed city, county, special district, state, or federal public office holder shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Independent Oversight Committee. Additionally, no member of the Independent Oversight Committee may be an employee of, independent contractor of, or otherwise be materially engaged for remuneration by any public or private recipient of Surtax Proceeds. Independent Oversight Committee members shall serve terms of three years, without compensation, and each shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing body.”

For more information on the amendment, please visit <https://www.allfortransportation.com/>

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