



# Florida House of Representatives

Representative Rick Kriseman

House District 53

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Monday, November 23, 2009

Pinellas Planning Council  
David Healey, Executive Director  
600 Cleveland Street, Suite 850  
Clearwater, FL 33755

Pinellas Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Brian Smith, Executive Director  
600 Cleveland Street, Suite 750  
Clearwater, FL 33755

Dear Mr. Healey and Mr. Smith,

As you know, my office has drafted a local bill idea that aims to merge the Pinellas Planning Council and the Metropolitan Planning Organization, an idea that has been under consideration for quite a while given the occasional shared focus of these two bodies and the desire for a more efficient local government, especially in this economic climate.

The deadline for local idea submissions this year was November 14th. Instead of presenting a concept to the delegation, gaining approval, and finishing work on the bill in Tallahassee, my office strove to share specific language now in order to have more informed discussions with each of you and others, and make any necessary changes prior to next month's delegation meeting. Not surprisingly, the first draft of this bill has generated much reaction.

One of the things I've learned while in elected office, and witness too often in Tallahassee, is that bad legislation, legislation that produces unintended consequences, is usually the result of haste and hurry – whether by design or negligence. Good legislation, however, is usually the product of thoughtful deliberation and collaboration. Given the non-emergency nature of this issue and my desire for good legislation, I intend to withdraw the aforementioned local bill from consideration and work to facilitate further discussion in the hopes of creating a sound plan for reducing the size of our local government, saving taxpayer money, and eliminating redundancies.

In closing, while I believe there is a need and an opportunity for consolidation, I happen to be a fan of both the PPC and the MPO, and in light of the legislature's approach to growth management, I believe the planning council's scope of work has never been more important. I look forward to partnering with each of you and our many local leaders over the course of the next year, in determining the best course of action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Kriseman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rep. Rick Kriseman

CC: Robert LaSala, Pinellas County Administrator  
Pinellas County Legislative Delegation  
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

**Councils and Committees**

Government Accountability Act Council · Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council  
Government Affairs Policy Committee · Government Operations Appropriations Committee