

External Affairs December 2010

On Wednesday, November 10th, Brian Blanchard, Chief Engineer for FDOT Headquarters, along with Jeffery James, Sound Barrier Program Manager for FDOT District 1, and several others paid a visit to Hunters Ridge plus the five other communities and facilities which did receive an FDOT constructed sound barrier. FDOT's position on all the sound walls constructed for Stoneybrook, Three Oaks Community Park, the Bonita Springs Eagles, Wyndemere and Village Walk was that no special benefits or discretion were used by FDOT or their consultants which would have resulted in those communities getting a sound barrier. We made a presentation to them that clearly defined our reasons for requesting a reevaluation for a sound barrier using the same criteria that resulted in these other communities receiving a sound barrier. Since that meeting, *Don Simpson* and *Fred Forbes* learned several other additional things FDOT either did or attempted to do in order to help other communities or facilities try to get or actually receive sound barrier walls. We will continue to discuss with these officials, as well as the Governor's office, our concerns about our lack of a sound barrier wall to shield our community from the traffic noise from I-75.

UPDATE

Thank you to all of you who have supported our efforts to have the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) reevaluate Hunters Ridge for an FDOT constructed sound barrier along I-75. On November 24th Don Simpson and Fred Forbes sent a strong letter to FDOT with a copy to State Representative Trudi Williams regarding Hunters Ridge being entitled to all the precedent-setting benefits and waivers given by FDOT to 5 of the communities and facilities that received 5 out of the 7 sound barriers built by FDOT. On December 15th Mr. Forbes sent letters to our newly elected State Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto and to State Senator Garrett Richter, President Pro Tem of the Senate, asking them to join with Representative Trudi Williams in supporting our community with this issue. On December 23rd Senator Richter called Mr. Forbes to discuss this issue. We will soon begin another email campaign and will be asking, once again, for your support.