

External Affairs February 2011

On January 19, 2011 Lizbeth Benacquisto, our newly elected State Senator, hosted a meeting in her Ft. Myers office between Hunters Ridge and FDOT to determine what the issues were and what course of action FDOT was going to pursue to resolve the issue with Hunters Ridge and its request for a Sound Barrier. In addition to Senator Benacquisto, participating in the meeting was Chief of Staff for State Representative Trudi Williams and a member of State Senator Richter's staff. FDOT was represented by Johnny Limbaugh, Director SW Florida Region and Dick Combs, Director of Development and Transportation, District 1. Sandi Morgan, President, Tom Padgett, Vice President, Fred Forbes, Secretary and Don Huprich, General Manager represented Hunters Ridge.

Fred Forbes presented an in-depth presentation regarding what FDOT had done for other communities and how Hunters Ridge would qualify for a Sound Barrier if FDOT would reevaluate Hunters Ridge giving us some of those same benefits. At the conclusion of our presentation, FDOT said Hunters Ridge would be receiving a letter from FDOT stating Hunters Ridge will be reevaluated for a Sound Barrier and the reevaluation will include not only a wall for the south villas, but also the golf course holes 1-4, tennis courts, Clubhouse and Activities Center. This independent reevaluation will apply higher new computer generated sound levels and Fred Forbes is to be involved in every step of the reevaluation. We believe the reevaluation will be run out of FDOT Headquarters. Please understand, FDOT will not make actual on site sound measurements, but they will make several visits to Hunters Ridge. It is critically important that when FDOT is in our community that we have maximum utilization of holes 1-4 and 9, our tennis courts, chipping green, putting green, croquet court, outdoor areas around the activities center and clubhouse, as well as inside of clubhouse and activities center. We will keep you posted as to when FDOT will be coming to our community.

This announcement by FDOT is a significant first step towards getting a sound barrier! We greatly appreciate all of you who took the time to email, write or call our state officials in pursuit of this reevaluation. Anyone wishing to see copies of the presentation given on January 19th should contact Chris Durfey in the Administration Office.