MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Taryn G. Kryzda
County Administrator

DATE: April 22, 2017

SUBJECT: Incorporation of Indiantown and HB259 Staff Report

On April 5, 2017 while the County Administrator (Administrator) was in Tallahassee and at the House Ways and Means Committee (Committee) meeting, HB259 was presented to the Committee for approval. During that presentation, one of the Committee members raised a question about a discrepancy in the numbers shown for fire rescue, and why were the numbers so different. House staff responded that they would have to review and get back to her, as they were not sure at that moment. This obviously brought some concern to the Administrator, who then requested a copy of the report that was being discussed. The Committee went on to pass HB259 unanimously.

Upon receiving the report this past week, it became apparent as to what caused the discrepancy that was brought up by the Committee member. The HB259 staff report (Report) references two issues that are not accurate. One is the methodology for calculating the services to be provided by the County to the Village of Indiantown (Village) for Fire/Rescue, Roads, Park Maintenance and Stormwater, which are all currently collected via Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTUs), would be based upon a per-capita formula. As stated in my memorandum dated December 30, 2016 in order for the County to continue providing the same level of service that the Village area receives today, the ad valorem taxes collected would have to be based upon the millage rates for those MSTUs being applied to the taxable value for that area. The report also states on page 15 that the County Administrator agreed with the per-capita methodology, which at no time did the Administrator have that conversation with anyone. If the per-capita methodology was to be used, then the residents in the unincorporated area would have to be assessed a greater millage rate to obtain the necessary revenues to provide the services. To base the expenditures on per-capita, when there is no ability by the County to collect revenues using that methodology, represents numbers that are not obtainable.

The report references revised information being submitted, a request has been made to obtain those documents. When the County has any additional information, it will be disseminated accordingly. Included with this memorandum is a memorandum dated December 30, 2016 from the Administrator on Incorporation and the HB259 report.

Should you have any additional comments or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cc: Don Donaldson, Deputy County Administrator
    George M. Stokus, Assistant County Administrator
    Sarah Woods, County Attorney
    Devon West, Legislative Affairs Coordinator