



# Info

---

# Release

For immediate release: September 7, 2018  
Contact: Martha Ann Kneiss, 772-214-2790

## Martin County wins preliminary battle to manage growth

At a hearing yesterday, Circuit Court Judge William L. Roby, granted a motion to dismiss a lawsuit that could have threatened the county's ability to effectively manage growth.

In April of this year, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) unanimously denied a proposal to amend the Comprehensive Plan that would have been the first step in allowing expanded utilities services and significantly increased density at proposed Harmony Ranch project west of Bridge Road in Hobe Sound. Staff, as well as the Local Planning Agency, recommended the BOCC deny the proposals. The legal battle ensued this summer, when Harmony Ranch (under its limited liability company name, Hobe Sound Ranch), filed a complaint in circuit court against Martin County for the denial. The complaint stated that due to the county's denial of the comprehensive plan amendment, Harmony's property rights had been taken without just compensation, a claim also known as inverse condemnation.

Martin County, represented by Senior Assistant County Attorney, Ruth A. Holmes, and Linda L. Shelley of Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, filed a Motion to Dismiss the lawsuit arguing there was no enforceable property right in a proposal to change the Comprehensive Plan, and therefore, there was no property right taken. The judge agreed with the county. "It was a tough hearing, but the law is the law and the judge did the right thing by dismissing the case. However, we fully expect Hobe Sound Ranch will come back with something new," said Ms. Holmes.

To stay up to date on county happenings, visit [www.martin.fl.us](http://www.martin.fl.us). Residents are also encouraged to follow us on Twitter at @martincountygov and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MartinCountyBoardofCountyCommissioners/](https://www.facebook.com/MartinCountyBoardofCountyCommissioners/).

###

RH/CA  
MAK/ADM

This notification can be reproduced in an alternative format upon request by contacting the County ADA Coordinator (772-221-1396), the County Administration Office (772-288-5940) or Florida Relay 711.