



A Touch of Excellence Smart Growth Partnership Initiatives Open Doors for Broward Cities

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (October 17, 2013) – Smart Growth Partnership closes the end of the year by opening new doors for cities in Broward County. As the end of the year approaches, Smart Growth Partnership has completed several health initiatives to-date in over 10 Broward cities, including Lauderdale Lakes, which is the first to implement changes to its city code, and Dania Beach which won three community redevelopment awards from the Florida Redevelopment Association, as well as Smart Growth Excellence awards.

Smart Growth Partnership has implemented several outreach and educational programs throughout Broward County via a two- year grant funded by the Center of Disease Control TOUCH (Transforming Our Communities Health) agenda to bring healthy cities to Broward County. Now Smart Growth principles are proving to be a part of South Florida’s redevelopment standards, as many Broward cities have begun to adopt the organization’s strategies to build livable and sustainable communities. Efforts are being highly recognized nationally, as cities that continually adopt smart growth principles as part of the TOUCH program, are making headway in building safer and sustainable communities.

Initiatives led by the Smart Growth Partnership received support from over 16 cities that included Fort Lauderdale and Dania Beach; two cities recognized statewide for their community redevelopment efforts. Through the TOUCH program and grant, Smart Growth Partnership of South East Florida continues to encourage Broward County to demonstrate significant activities in improving communities socially, economically, and environmentally. Leaders within Smart Growth Partnership perform audits of comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, engineering standards and land development codes to determine efficient and effective ways for Broward to build sustainable, safer, and health conscious communities.

Through these advancing efforts, Smart Growth has continually begun making headway and as a result Broward cities are being recognized for their level of community excellence.

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Smart Growth Partnership, Inc. is a collaborative of diverse professionals and organizations providing leadership, advocacy, and education to promote livable and sustainable and green communities. To that end, the partnership, which was founded in 2005, supports the Principles of Smart Growth and each year presents the Southeast Florida Awards for Smart Growth Excellence to public- and private-sector projects that espouse these principles. For more information, and to read the Smart Growth Principles, visit www.smartgrowthpartnership.org.

About TOUCH The Transforming Our Community’s Health (TOUCH) initiative is a true collaborative effort among more than 30 community organizations and coalitions that will support efforts to reduce health disparities and improve the health and well-being of the residents, commuters, and workers of Broward County. For more information about TOUCH, please contact TOUCH Program Director Teina Phillips tphillips@brhpc.org or at (954) 561-9681.

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