



Transforming Our Community's Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2012

### **Broward Cities "TOUCH"-ed by Smart Growth Principles in 2012**

*Fort Lauderdale, FL (December 18, 2012)* - In 2012, 11 cities in Broward County committed to Smart Growth Principles. These principles, were developed by Smart Growth Partnership (SGP), a Broward-based nonprofit organization dedicated to advocacy and education to promote livable, sustainable and green communities. The cities include Fort Lauderdale, Miramar, Dania Beach, Deerfield Beach, Coral Springs, Pompano Beach, West Park, Plantation, Lauderdale Lakes, North Lauderdale and Oakland Park.

This year, the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization adopted Complete Streets guidelines, developed by SGP and Urban Health Partnerships, both TOUCH partners. The group garnered support and created educational and outreach programs for all communities in Broward as the direct result of a five-year grant awarded as part of the TOUCH initiative.

SGP addresses the needs of current and future families by revitalizing neighborhoods, preserving natural areas, stimulating economic development and providing transportation alternatives to the car. Smart Growth encourages mixed versus single use tenant development, which is a financially beneficial way for communities to increase tax revenue while decreasing urban sprawl.

Marianne Winfield, executive director of SGP, praises the TOUCH initiative for the help it has provided Smart Growth.

"The TOUCH grant has allowed our organization to reach a broad audience within Broward County with our message that Smart Growth makes economic sense and greatly impacts community health," Winfield said. "We're now able to more actively pursue our mission to help create the healthy, livable and walkable communities that are being embraced throughout the country."

SGP has helped organize educational programs for elected officials, city planning managers, public works administrators and the community-at-large. These included a February event organized in partnership with Nova Southeastern University's School of Real Estate that brought Urban Land Institute's (ULI) Ed McMahan to speak there on the economic benefits of Smart Growth.

In June, SGP partnered with Nova Southeastern University, Sieman's and the United States Green Building Council South Florida Chapter to present a two-day workshop involving interactive

discussions about the results of Siemens' Green City Index (GCI). This was an opportunity to gain a better understanding of sustainable "best practices" from cities around the world.

In September, SGP awarded their annual Southeast Florida Awards for Smart Growth Excellence. Two awards were presented to Dania Beach and one to Fort Lauderdale's Northwest Gardens Project, which then went on to win Honorable Mention from the EPA's Smart Growth Excellence Awards in November.

Also in September, SGP partnered with the Fort Lauderdale Realtors Association, National Association of Realtors, Nova Southeastern University, and other community partners to present a half day seminar for elected officials and planning staffs with nationally recognized expert Peter Katz who spoke on "A Proactive Approach to Managing a Community's Property Tax Base."

For more information on the mission of SGP, visit [www.smartgrowthpartnership.org](http://www.smartgrowthpartnership.org).

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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](http://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](mailto:tphillips@brhpc.org) or at (954) 561-9681.

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