

From: Randy Knight <Rknight@cityofwinterpark.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 11:44 AM

To: [REDACTED]; Mayor and Commissioners <MayorandCommissioners@cityofwinterpark.org>

Subject: RE: End the CRA

Thank you for your input. There has been a lot of misleading information recently about the benefits of a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and how it functions. In short, ending the CRA would deprive the City of Winter Park and its residents of over \$45,000,000 in county funds that will be spent to improve Winter Park. Those funds would instead be used in unincorporated Orange County with little or no benefit to Winter Park residents.

When you pay your tax bill, approximately 25% of your taxes goes to Orange County for services they provide, such as the county jail, Supervisor of Elections, Property Appraiser, Mosquito control, etc...

When you have a CRA, the City gets to keep a portion of the Orange County taxes collected from property owners within the CRA. In our case, that amounts to approximately \$4.5 million per year and growing that is reinvested back into this community based upon public input from Winter Park residents.

Many of the projects in our plan would not be possible without these CRA funds. Projects such as dedicated left turn lanes on Fairbanks that will improve traffic flow along that congested corridor. Drainage improvements along Minnesota Avenue and the other streets south of West Fairbanks that have been flooding problems for decades. Drainage improvements along Denning, Comstock, Canton and Lyman. Gateway corridor improvements along Fairbanks and 17/92. The Park Avenue Refresh Project. Parking improvements in the downtown core. These are needed improvements that, without the CRA, would take significantly longer to address, if they get addressed at all.

That is why the City Commission worked hard last year with the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to obtain a 10-year extension and a territorial expansion of the CRA that will keep this important funding source available to our community through 2037. If you would like more information about our CRA please see this link. <https://cityofwinterpark.org/departments/management-budget/community-redevelopment-agency/>

Sincerely,



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Randy Knight

City Manager
City Management

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