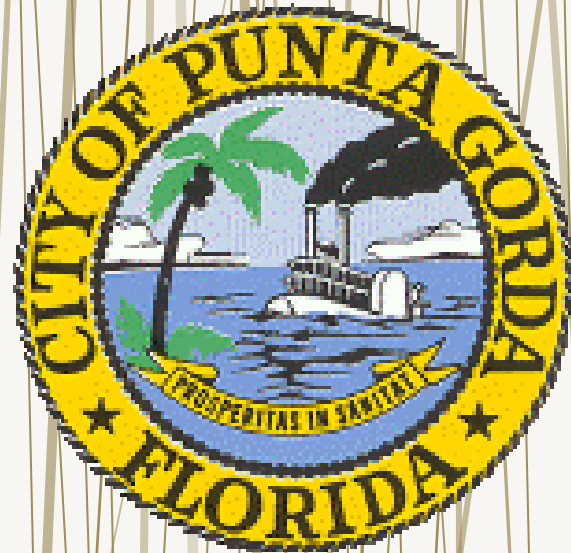


CITY OF PUNTA GORDA
Annual CRA Report
Fiscal Year 2016
Submitted: March 31, 2017

Prepared for:
City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency and City Council



March 31, 2017

Auditor General's Office
111 West Madison Street
Claude Denso Pepper Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1450

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are pleased to submit the Annual Progress Status Report for the City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (PGCRA) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. Section 163.356(3)(c) requires the City to file with its governing body, on or before March 31 each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses of the end of such fiscal year. It is the philosophy of the PGCRA to keep all interested parties informed with respect to the activities of the PGCRA and encourage active participation in the development of redevelopment programs benefiting the entire community. We believe the data, as presented, is accurate in all material respects and that all disclosures necessary to enable the reader of this report to gain an understanding of PGCRA's operation and financial activity (included).

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Hilston

David C. Hilston, AICP
Chief Planner

The Mission



The Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency's mission is to create an aesthetically unique environment with high quality character while maintaining small town charm.

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What is the CRA?

A Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is a taxing district established by local government for the purpose of carrying out redevelopment activities that include reducing or eliminating blight, increasing the tax base, and encouraging public and private investments in the redevelopment area. The members of the Punta Gorda City Council also serve as the Board members of the CRA along with 2 members at large and the City Manager, who serves as the CRA Executive Director.



Meet the 2016 CRA Members

Pictured Above Left to Right: Nancy Prafke, Gary Wein, Frank Weikel, Chair Rachel Keesling, Jane Sturges, Tom Cavanaugh, and Vice Chair Kim Devine

City Staff

Howard Kunik, CRA Director

David Levin, City Attorney

Karen Smith, City Clerk

Teri Tubbs, Urban Design Manager

David C Hilston, AICP, Chief Planner

Joan F LeBeau, AICP, Chief Planner

Mitchell S Austin, AICP CNU-A, Urban Planner

Cherry Cash Prewitt, Planner

Julie Ryan, Administrative Specialist



Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE PUNTA GORDA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

All interested parties are hereby notified that the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency has filed with the State of Florida Auditor General's Office a copy of its Annual Status Report and Annual Financial Report highlighting projects, programs and CRA finances for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. Copies of these documents may be examined after March 31, 2017, in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 326 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950, the Punta Gorda Urban Design Division, City Hall Annex, 126 Harvey Street, 3rd Floor, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950, during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM, or may be accessed, after March 31, 2016 on the City's website at www.pgorda.us.

This notice is being published in compliance with the requirements of Section 163.356(e)(c) of the Florida Statutes governing Community Redevelopment Agencies.



The Purpose

Pursuant to Section 163.356(3)(c) of Florida Statutes, the City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (the “Agency”) is required to:

...file with the governing body, on or before March 31 of each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses as of the end of such fiscal year. At the time of the filing of the report, the “Agency” shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the community a notice of the effect that such report has been filed with the municipality and that the report is available for inspection during business hours in the office of the clerk of the city and in the office of the “Agency”.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to satisfy the requirements of Section 163.356(3)(C) and to provide the public with useful information concerning the Community Redevelopment Area and Agency.

The History of the CRA

In July 1985, City Councilwoman Phyllis Smith was named to head a group of local residents, business people, and community leaders with the express purpose of encouraging the revitalization of Punta Gorda's historic downtown area. The committee began with a community-wide citizen survey that said the downtown area needed conveniently located parking, a broader range of retail/service businesses, preservation of its rich history, and a stronger lineage of the central business district to the Charlotte Harbor waterfront. The Committee turned its efforts to downtown revitalization and in 1990 the establishment of a Community Redevelopment Agency with the aim of adopting a redevelopment plan for its downtown area and using tax increment financing to fund the projects and programs contained in the plan. The City of Punta Gorda has moved forward and has steadily implemented the projects and programs within the Redevelopment Plan (East Side and Downtown Planning Study) to achieve and realize the goals and objectives of the Plan.

Community Redevelopment Area City of Punta Gorda, Florida

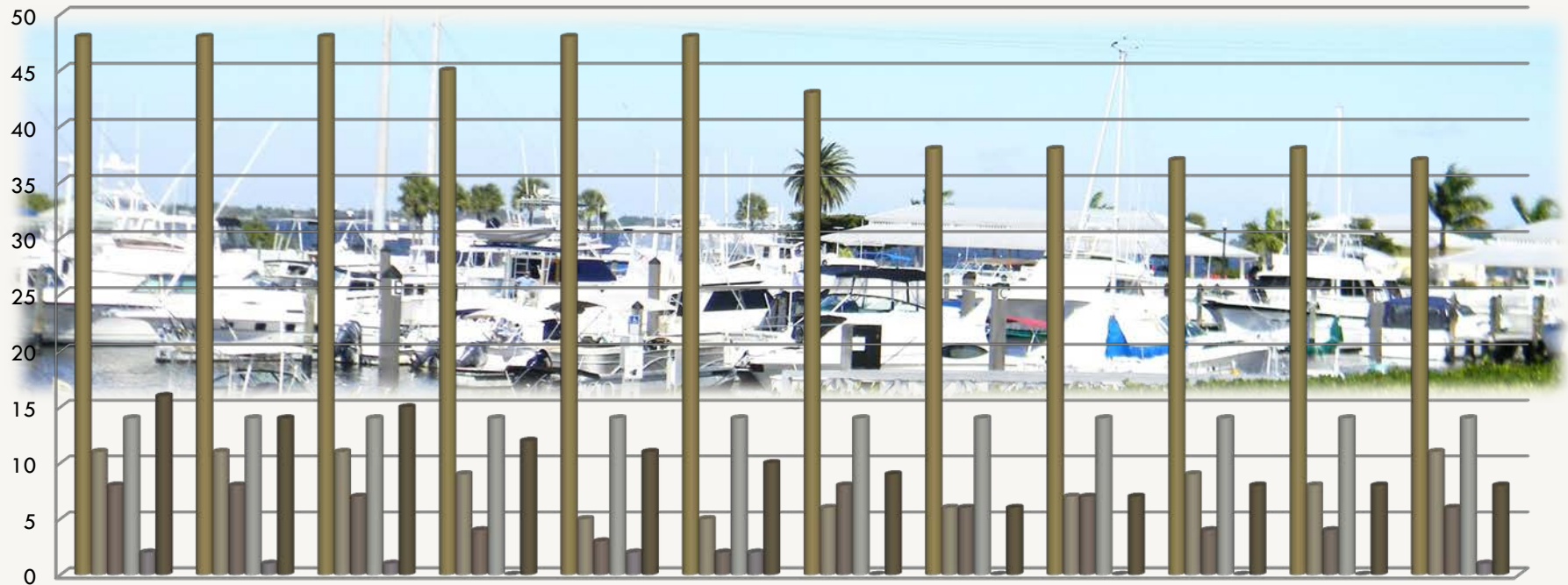


The CRA area is bounded on the North by the Peace River, on the West by Maud Street, on the South by Henry Street, and on the East by Cooper Street

The background of the slide features a pattern of vertical lines in various shades of brown and tan, creating a textured, grass-like effect. A solid dark brown horizontal banner spans the width of the slide, positioned in the lower third. The text "2016 Activities" is centered within this banner in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

2016 Activities

Laishley Park Municipal Marina



	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
■ Annual Contracts	48	48	48	45	48	48	43	38	38	37	38	37
■ Semi-Annual Contracts	11	11	11	9	5	5	6	6	7	9	8	11
■ Monthly Contracts	8	8	7	4	3	2	8	6	7	4	4	6
■ Commercial Contracts	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
■ Transient Contracts	2	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
■ Mooring Rental	16	14	15	12	11	10	9	6	7	8	8	8

94 permitted slips and 42 moorings

SS Clearhead Activity



	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
■ Total Gallons Pumped	2830	3253	2608	1760	2040	1674	980	1030	1250	1135	1349	1510
■ Number of Pump Out	104	122	105	79	95	63	42	46	50	59	69	79

713 Total Pump Outs - 21,412 Total Gallons Pumped



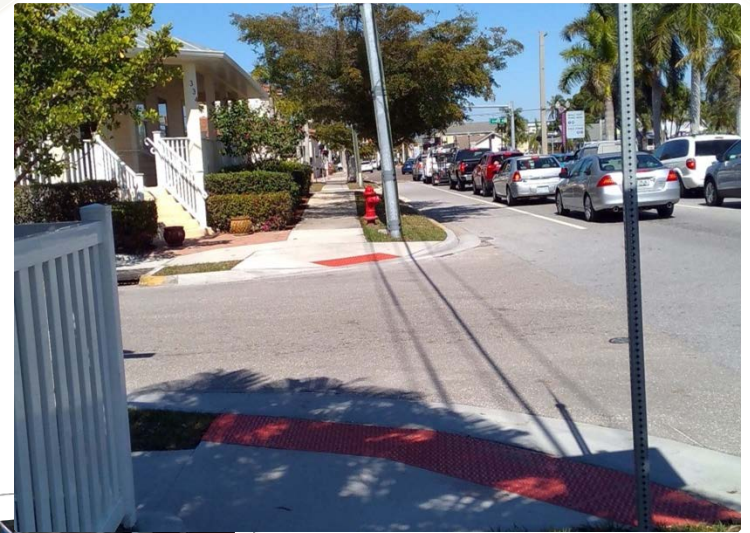
- A Better Solution of Punta Gorda
- Barklow Properties LLC
- Bayfront Medical Group
- Burg ' R Bar
- Charlene's Classic Carriages
- Great Clips
- Jacqueline Mappes, Massage Therapist
- Jones Family Insurance Agency
- LFB Vending
- Life Changing Counseling
- Mint Asian Cuisine
- O'Rielly Auto Parts
- PG Chocolate & Wine
- Precious Angles Home Care
- Protective Alliance
- Ralph Temple Insurance
- Silvermedice America
- Skin Sanctuary
- The Bull & Tarpon w/ Stumble Upon Bakery
- VCV Hearing Labs



Harbowalk
@ Justice
Center

Harbowalk @ Laishley Park





**Goldstein
Intersection**

US 41 Underpass





SPECIAL EVENTS

Downtown Punta Gorda is also a place for numerous events. The scenic waterfront open space hosts public festivals, concerts, and fishing tournaments. These events bring a steady stream of people to the downtown area and generate interest in the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Area (PGCRA).

A large, brightly lit Christmas tree at night in Punta Gorda, Florida, with a crowd of people gathered around it. The tree is covered in white lights and has a star on top. The background shows a building with lit windows and a street with traffic lights. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

**In 2016
Punta Gorda Hosted
Over 70 Special Events
With Attendance
Exceeding
80,000!**

Arts & Craft Shows

- MY Promotions Arts & Craft Show
- Sullivan Street Arts & Craft Show
- TNT Arts & Craft Shows
- Peace River National Art Show



Car Shows

- AACA Car Show
- Corvettes of Charlotte County Car Show
- Mustang Car Show
- SW Florida Honor Flight Car show
- Veteran's Car Show



Walks, Runs, & Bikes

- American Heart Association Heart Walk
- Boys & Girls Club 5K
- Chocolate Fantasia 7K Run
- Hands Across the Harbor ½ Marathon
- March Against Hunger
- March of Dimes March for Babies
- Pregnancy Care Line Walk for Life
- Punta Gorda Pub Crawl
- TEAM Pedal & Play in Paradise
- Twin Tot Walk
- Walk to End Alzheimer's
- Wal-Mart JDRF 5K Run



Concerts & Festivals

- Chili & Beer Fest
- DMA Oktoberfest October
- Downtown Hoedown Concert
- Funk Fest Punta Gorda
- Haunting on the Harbor
- iHeart Media International Food Festival
- Pops in the Park Concert
- Punta Gorda Rotary Taste of Punta Gorda
- Peace River Seafood Festival
- PGCC Wine & Jazz Festival



Parades

- Charlotte County Christmas Parade
- Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade
- Lighted Boat Parade (Canal)
- Lighted Boat Parade (Harbor)
- MLK, Jr Day Parade
- Veteran's Day Parade



Other Special Events

- Cirque Italia
- City's Annual Arbor Day Celebration
- Diocese of Venice Youth Rally
- Downtown Tree Lighting/Holly Days
- Holly Days Home Tour
- Leroy's New Year's Eve Celebration
- NAACP Unity
- Pickle-ball Tournament
- Share the Love Home Tour
- United Way Fabulous Feast Event
- Virginia B Andes Fundraiser
- War on the Peace Dragon Boat Races



The background of the slide features a pattern of vertical lines in various shades of brown and tan, creating a textured, grass-like appearance. A solid dark brown horizontal banner spans the width of the slide near the bottom. The text "What are they Saying?" is centered within this banner in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a thin black outline.

What are they Saying?

By **Lou Brancaccio**, Columbian Editor
Published: January 9, 2016, 6:10 AM



Lou Brancaccio is The Columbian's editor.

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — It's time. No really, it's time.

Time to promote Vancouver for what it really is. OK, I get the perceived problem. Many believe we have to first figure out what "it" is before we can promote it. But maybe the real problem is we're over-thinking the whole dang thing. Maybe — just maybe — we don't have to figure "it" out. Let me explain.

...

I sneaked away for a few days and ended up in the warm sunshine on the Southwest Florida coast. It's a pretty little place called Punta Gorda. Filled with brick streets, boutique shops and beautiful parks. And did I mention bikes as art?

Yeah, bikes as art. Way cool.

Oh, the bikes are real. Somebody rode these bad boys once. But today they are art.

Now, look, Punta Gorda is not the bike capital of the world, although plenty of cyclists take advantage of its moderate temperatures and miles of paths. Still, it's only a piece of its makeup. So the locals went with it.

Bikes do not tell Punta Gorda's story. They are simply part of the story.

...

As many of you know, displaying public art is not unique to Punta Gorda. In fact, many cities have done this.

Chicago was actually one of the first to do it in the U.S.

Fiberglass cows were painted and decorated by local artists. Then they were placed around the city. How they were painted would often reflect local culture.

Later, the cows were auctioned.

...

In Punta Gorda, according to urban planner Mitchell Austin, the residents.

"It was organically generated by citizens," he said.

Unlike some cities that auction off the art, Punta Gorda's idea



AAA LIVING

The March/April 2016 edition of AAA Living magazine featured the Punta Gorda's murals as one of the highlights to see in Charlotte County for those visiting Charlotte Sports Park to take in a Tampa Bay Rays pre-season game.

Best Towns to Live in Florida 2016



It's tropical climate and long stretches of coastline make the state of Florida a great destination, or better yet, permanent address. Each of Florida's large cities have a distinct flare with their own cuisines and attractions as do its small and medium-sized cities. It's a state prided on historical significance, cultural influence, and an assortment of leisure activities. Florida is bordered by Georgia and Alabama to the north, and is surrounded by Atlantic Ocean Waters to the south, southeast and southwest. The state has a total population of 20,271,272 (2010 census) and reaches over 65,755 square miles.

Our ratings were compiled by combining census, education, wealth, happiness and internal RentApplication data to create a unified rating system for all of the towns in Florida. Ranked below are the top towns.

#6 Punta Gorda



Although the county of Charlotte is largely inland, Punta Gorda rests along the water, in the Gulf of Mexico. Punta Gorda is also one of the state's oldest towns, with 16,641 residents. During World War II, the city was transformed into US army field to train combat soldiers. Today, the city has been revitalized to include a Harborwalk as well as many new restaurants and newly developed neighborhoods.

Frontier Airlines will begin scheduled, nonstop flights from Punta Gorda Airport to Chicago O'Hare, Philadelphia and Trenton, NJ in late October. This is the first time Frontier Airlines will offer service out of Punta Gorda Airport. Service for Chicago O'Hare and Philadelphia will begin October 30, with scheduled flights on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays; and Trenton service will start October 31 with flights on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For more information visit www.flyfrontier.com or www.flypgd.com.

10 AFFORDABLE DOWN-SOUTH DESTINATIONS TO ESCAPE WINTER'S CHILL

Posted On 11 Jan 2016

AFFORDABLE SOUTHERN VACATIONS

What's the best way to survive the winter blues? Escape them. If you're suffering from a post-holiday or New Years hangover (figuratively or literally!) and struggling with the colder temps, we have the perfect remedy: a sunny, warm-weather vacation that won't break the bank.

You may have lucked out so far, Northeasterners, but don't get cocky. Another snowpocalypse is just one "wicked staaahm" away. In fact, no matter where you live in the States, why not kick off the new year with a trip? Somewhere you *know* will be gorgeous—and affordable.

We're talking about the Southern US; a region known for beach-like weather year round and the world's best barbecue.

At TripAdvisor Rentals, we've identified 10 down-south getaways to help you through winter. Each destination offers stunning vacation rental options at much less the cost than a hotel. Plus with extra living space, private outdoor areas, a full kitchen, and amenities like a swimming pool, game room or cinema, rentals provide the most bang for your buck.

Here are 10 sun-drenched southern escapes with some of the most affordable rental home rates in the country.

AVG Weekly Rate reflects the average cost for a weeklong stay in a two-bedroom rental property booked on TripAdvisor Rentals during Winter 2015-2016.

1. PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA

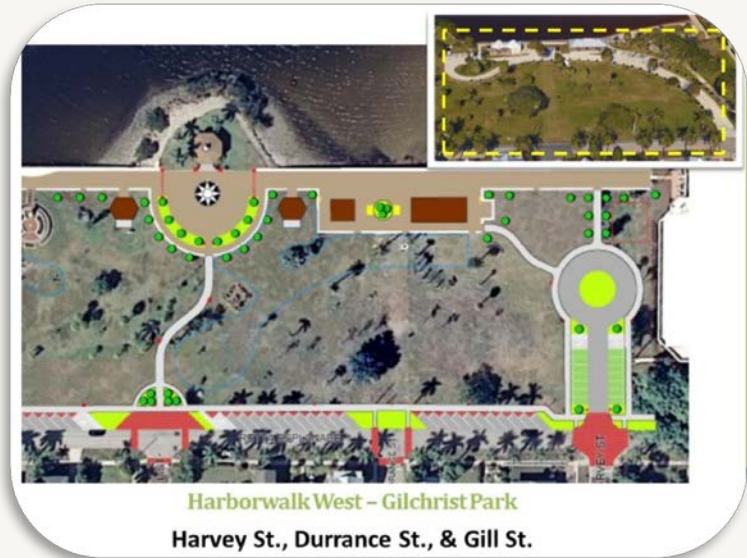


AVG Weekly Rate: \$523

A super relaxed lifestyle graces Punta Gorda locals and visitors alike. There's the renowned waterfront complex – Fisherman's Village – offering a full vacation's worth of activities. Peruse the unique shops and eateries, or engage in a plethora of aquatic activities from boating, jet skis and windsurfing to paddleboards and parasailing. For just \$523 per week on average for a two-bedroom rental stay, you can experience this Florida gem at a huge bargain.

Looking to the Future

- Sidewalk Improvements
- Harborwalk at Gilchrist Park
- Gilchrist Park Playground
- Gilchrist Park Restroom Facilities
- Punta Gorda Library & Historic Archive
- Andrews Building – Affordable Housing Project
- Cooper Street Recreation Center Rehab



The background of the slide features a pattern of thin, vertical, light brown lines of varying lengths and positions, creating a textured, grass-like effect. A solid dark brown horizontal bar spans the width of the slide, positioned in the lower third. The text "Financial Matters" is centered within this bar in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Financial Matters

How is the CRA Funded?



Activities in the CRA are predominantly funded by tax increment. Tax increment is calculated based on the dollar value of all real property in the Community Redevelopment Area at the time the CRA district is created, also known as the “frozen value”.

Taxing authorities who contribute to the tax increment continue to receive property tax revenues based on the frozen value. However, any tax revenues from increases in real property value, referred to as “increment”, are deposited into the Community Redevelopment Agency Trust Fund and dedicated to the redevelopment area. Tax increment revenues can be used immediately, saved for a particular project, or bonded to maximize the funds available. Any funds received from a tax increment financing area must be used in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan for specific redevelopment purposes within the targeted area, and not for general governmental purposes.

Financial Matters

The Community Redevelopment Agency budget and financial reporting activities are part of the City's comprehensive financial process. The following tables contain the City of Punta Gorda CRA Financials for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA

BALANCE SHEET

Community Redevelopment Agency

September 30, 2016

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	1,552,912
Accounts receivable		4,926
Due from other funds		3,326
Total Assets	\$	1,561,164

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
BALANCE SHEET
Community Redevelopment Agency
September 30, 2016

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Accounts payable	\$	244,026
Retainage payable		24,981
Unearned revenue		31,142
Total liabilities	\$	300,149
Fund balances		
Capital improvement and maintenance		
CRA District (Downtown)		1,261,015
Total Fund Balances	\$	1,261,015
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$	1,561,164

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
Community Redevelopment Agency
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

Revenues			
Intergovernmental revenues	\$	927,748	
Miscellaneous		312,100	
Total Revenues	\$	1,239,848	
Expenditures			
Economic environment		491,491	
Capital Outlay		26,500	
Total expenditures	\$	517,991	
Excess Revenues over expenditures		721,857	
Other financing sources (uses)			
Transfers in		470,728	
Transfers out		(1,310,790)	
Total other financing sources (uses)		(840,062)	
Net change in fund balances		(118,205)	
Fund balances, October 1, 2015		1,379,220	
Fund Balances, September 30, 2016	\$	1,261,015	

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

	Budgets		Actual	Final Budget
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Intergovernmental revenues	\$ 923,709	\$ 923,709	\$ 927,748	\$ (4,039)
Miscellaneous	307,148	307,148	312,100	(4,952)
Total Revenues	\$ 1,230,857	1,230,857	1,239,848	(8,991)
Expenditures				
Economic environment	270,300	794,593	491,491	303,102
Capital outlay	22,000	159,405	26,500	132,905
Total Expenditures	\$ 292,300	953,998	517,991	436,007
Excess revenues over expenditures	\$ 938,557	276,859	721,857	444,998
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	468,678	468,678	470,728	2,050
Transfers out	(1,310,790)	(1,310,790)	(1,310,790)	-
Total other financing uses	(842,112)	(842,112)	(890,062)	2,050
Net change in fund balances	\$ 96,445	\$ (565,253)	\$ (118,205)	\$ 447,048
Fund balances, October 1, 2015			<u>\$1,379,220</u>	
Fund balances, September 30, 2016			<u>\$1,261,015</u>	

Finding Us on the Web



The Community Redevelopment Agency is at your service 24 hours a day / 7 days a week at www.pgorda.us you will find a wealth of information including meeting dates; latest happenings and events; maps; and much more!

Any Comments or Questions?

Contact:

David C. Hilston, AICP
Urban Design Division
City of Punta Gorda
326 West Marion Avenue
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
Email: Dhilston@pgorda.us
Phone: 941-575-3372

