

# **ALERT! STOP THIS STINKY AMENDMENT!!!**

**(Read the article below) The Tampa Bay Builders Association (TBBA) has hired a lobbyist specifically to push the Planning Commission change to their board through as an amendment to state-wide general law. We now know that the EPC and Tampa Sports Authority parts of the bill were just decoys for the real motivation of HB 723 – The Planning Commission!**

**Remember how this bill got to Tallahassee to begin with...political lobbying legislator to legislator while delaying the vote from morning to afternoon; waiving the very rules on voting that create the consensus-building needed for a local bill to successfully pass in session to a plain majority vote just to get the bill passed; and two public hearings where the only support for change to the Planning Commission board came from a development representative which was heard, when over 40 people at each hearing opposed it and were ignored!**

**It is a shame that the Tampa Bay Builders Association by pulling this devious maneuver has validated the community's reasons for distrust. This is not good government or even government in the sunshine.**

**WRITE TO YOUR LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND ASK THEM TO STOP THIS BAD AMENDMENT!** All 16 Legislative Delegates can be contacted through Candace Hundley – MAKE SURE YOU PUT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS IN THE EMAILS: [Hundleyc@HillsboroughCounty.ORG](mailto:Hundleyc@HillsboroughCounty.ORG)

**CONTACT YOUR COUNTY COMMISSION OR CITY COUNCIL AND ASK THEM TO WRITE TO THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND STOP ANY AMENDMENT THAT INCLUDES ADDING MEMBER SEATS ON A "LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY":**

**Plant City (<http://www.plantcitygov.com/>)**

**Temple Terrace (<http://www.templeterrace.com/>)**

**Tampa (<http://www.tampagov.net/index.asp>)**

**Hillsborough County (<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/>)**

**This article will be distributed to all 160 legislators in Tallahassee today. Please do your part at home by contacting your elected officials and ask for help in Tallahassee to stop this.**

**Thank you.**

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# Builders Try To Ambush Planning Agency

By DENISE LAYNE

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The stench of what is happening in Tallahassee regarding Hillsborough County's local bill No. 1, now known as House Bill 723, is disgusting.

This highly controversial bill changes the composition of three boards in Hillsborough County - Environmental Protection Commission (EPC), the City-County Planning Commission, and the Tampa Sports Authority.

Everyone pretty much agrees that seats from all local governments need to be on the EPC board. However, changing the Planning Commission and Tampa Sports Authority is unnecessary. They have achieved their own balance and successfully perform their duties.

Because of the public outcry already heard in Tallahassee to not touch the planning commission, HB 723 hasn't moved thus far. Of course, in this session anything is possible - so stay vigilant.

So, what stinks? The only supporting entity of HB 723, the Tampa Bay Builders Association (TBBA), has hired a lobbyist specifically to make the change to the planning commission by using an amendment to state-wide general law.

Why would the builders bother? They have been trying to get rid of the planning commission and/or its director for years - because the planning commission is doing its job. And yes, the TBBA has also been pushing the beltway in southern Hillsborough County. The beltway was taken off all maps in Hillsborough County due to huge comprehensive plan issues.

Who is responsible for the comp plan? Our "Local Planning Agency" - the planning commission. By the way, the beltway has surfaced for discussion again on Tampa Bay Regional Transportation Authority's preliminary map.

How can the builders do this? Amendment language changing the planning commission board is hidden and can be attached to any bill addressing planning, i.e., water, growth management, utilities, energy, affordable housing, just to name a few subjects. With over 3,000 bills filed this session, how stinky is this?

Here's an example of one amendment looking for a home on a bill that was found circulating last week:

"To further such strategies in land use decisions which may affect water resources, the county commission of the largest urban area within the southern water use caution area shall add one additional voting member to the local planning agency who is knowledgeable in the area of regional water supply, with a term beginning September 2008."

There you go - one seat added to Hillsborough County's City/County Planning Commission and you never saw it coming.

We hope our legislative delegation will realize what is going on and protect the public's interests in Hillsborough County, and stop this stinky amendment.

Denise Layne is executive director of the Coalition 4 Responsible Growth, Inc.