



To: Jennifer D Robinson/cfp@cfp,
Cc: Linda Cox/cfp@cfp, Linda Hudson/cfp@cfp,
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Great
From: Nicholas Mimms/cfp - Monday 02/13/2017 04:28 PM

History: This message has been replied to.

To: "nmimms@city-ftpierce.com" <nmimms@city-ftpierce.com>, "Linda Hudson - City of Fort Pierce (lhudson@city-ftpierce.com)" <lhudson@city-ftpierce.com>, "shelms@city-ftpierce.com" <shelms@city-ftpierce.com>, "lcox@city-ftpierce.com" <lcox@city-ftpierce.com>
From: Scott Smith <scott.smith@vc.edu>
Date: 02/13/2017 02:23PM
Cc: Terissa Aronson <director@stluciechamber.org>, Loretta Millan <salespsl@stluciechamber.org>, Candy Marlow <cmarlow@youredc.com>
Subject: Great

Hi All,

I wanted to share with you the fantastic time some friends and I had this Saturday evening in downtown Fort Pierce and wanted to congratulate you all on the great job of transforming the city into such a 'happening' place!

All the positive changes and new developments seemed to come to fruition Saturday and all of us were so impressed with how vibrant and lively the inlet and downtown areas have become. We started at the inlet area around sunset for drinks, had food at Archie's and then made our way to the Bryan Jackson Music Festival. It was fantastic to see everything so busy and people enjoying themselves and spending money at our local businesses (it seemed much busier than normal).

The music festival was outstanding and well organized and we all felt the city did a great job cordoning off the downtown area. People of all ages were having a blast and we overheard lots of folks commenting how much livelier and 'hip' Fort Pierce has become. The new Sailfish Brewery patio was a big hit as well as 2nd Street Bistro and we noticed another new live music venue that was packed as well.

I lived in Delray when it converted from a dead, crime ridden area to the happening 'place to be' and there was a time when you felt it turned the corner and exploded with success. I feel like Fort Pierce has truly turned that corner now and all your efforts are paying off in a synergistic way. I think it is only going to get better from here and my bet is a lot of folks will start moving to the downtown area and beaches. One of my siblings lives in Austin, Texas a city famous for great culture, nightlife and music and I can honestly say Fort Pierce felt as fun as Austin this Saturday night.

In my experience, the recipe for success in Delray was hosting lots of regular festivals/events of all variety so people keep coming (monthly, some day--some night) and Fort Peirce is doing a great job with this. I hope it continues!

A couple suggestions I might make would be to increase the police visibility just a bit more so people know the police are there and where they are if there was an emergency (I only noticed one patrol car). I am sure there were many officers working the area, but I think it is helpful to have them leave strobe lights on so they are more easily noticed. It may give some residents more comfort to venture out at night if they feel very safe.

It would be fantastic to consider a free nighttime trolley circuit to run to hit the bar/restaurant circuit downtown and to the inlet area and make it very prominent (ring a bell so you hear it coming to jump on). I was not aware Fort Pierce even had a trolley until someone mentioned it to me today.

Lastly, it might generate more visitors to promote festivals on portable construction billboards on our major roadways to remind tourists and locals of an upcoming event and create more buzz.

For the future, I hope the City might consider hosting more large music festivals (i.e. even an electronic festival to attract the younger crowd). These festivals get national attention and draw big crowds and it may open up the door to new generations of tourists to experience our area.

One last idea I wish our local officials would consider is to develop our area into an ATV friendly destination by developing public trails. There are very few places to ride ATV's in Florida (mainly Ocala area) and this area could generate significant economy to this area. It would add to the area's amenities and I believe could get millions of Floridians to come to our area if developed properly.

I have an ATV and travel for vacation to states like Tennessee and Virginia who cater more to this. Tennessee (Gatlinburg area) even allows ATV's under certain rules/conditions to use public roads to access downtown restaurants. It would be nice to see this in our area.

In any event, I just wanted you to know your hard work is noticed and appreciated!

Scott

Scott Smith

Director of Career Development

Virginia College in Ft. Pierce

2810 South Federal Highway

Fort Pierce, FL 34982

cell 772.882.8262 | direct 772.448.2053 | fax 772.448.2099

scott.smith@vc.edu | www.vc.edu | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

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