

PROPOSAL FOR A
“COMMUNITY DEFENSE RESERVE FUND”

The quality of life of all the communities of south Lee County and Estero is repeatedly threatened by forces outside our control. For example:

- A year ago who would have thought we would have to live with nearly one hundred low flying aircraft over our heads every day.
- For the last several years we have not been able to rely on the responsible agencies to protect the quality of the water in our rivers and streams that continues to degrade Estero Bay and its recreational value.
- Until the economic slowdown greedy land speculators have pushed hard to permit many new rock mines on the east side of our community with no concern about the safety of south Lee County drivers coping with big increases in truck traffic on top of the ever expanding commercial traffic our new shopping centers are producing.

In addition from time to time zoning and land use decisions; road and traffic threats cannot be defeated unless sufficient resources are available in a timely manner.

It has become increasingly apparent that protecting ourselves and our community against these threats will require some readily available financial resources.

Our Suggested Response

The purpose of this proposal is for all of the communities in the Estero area contribute in a fair and equitable way to a reserve fund that will provide the resources necessary to overcome the threats that challenge the quality of life in of all our communities.

The Proposal is as follows:

- Each community will annually budget and escrow \$10 for each homeowner in order to create a “Community Defense Fund” that will be used exclusively to defend the community from proposals that threaten the quality of life of residents and their property values.
- As community threats emerge The Estero Council of Community Leaders (ECCL), including your community representative, will vote to support specific plans necessary to combat each threat they believe needs support from each community’s “Defense Fund”. If the ECCL votes to combat a threat, each community governing Board will be asked to allocate an amount, based upon the equal amount per household formula, for use by the ECCL in implementing the approved strategy to defeat that threat.
- Each “Community Defense Fund” will be controlled by the community’s governing Board. These funds may be spent only upon approval of an ECCL request by a majority vote of the Board.
- At the end of each fiscal year each community governing Board shall roll-over any year end balances to be reserved for possible later use.
- No “Community Defense Funds” shall be used to support or oppose any candidate for public office.
- “Community Defense Funds” shall only be used to pay the expenses of professionals (attorneys, planners, architects and engineers, consultants, scientists and other expert

witnesses etc.) need to implement the strategy. The ECCL and its members will continue to support each of these efforts without remuneration on a voluntary basis.

- An annual report will be submitted to each participating community, at the end of each calendar year, detailing:
 - The amount of funds collected from each of the participating communities,
 - A detailed accounting of how the money has been spent on each authorized defense effort.