Community Services Department
121 S.W. Flagler Avenue • Stuart • Florida • 34994

# M E M O R A N D U M

**To:** David Dyess, City Manager

**From:** Jim Chrulski, Community Services Director

**Date:** January 28, 2019

**Re:** January 2019, Employee of the Month - Thondra Lanese

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Dear Mr. Dyess:

Stuart Main Street Director Thondra Lanese has achieved the Main Street America Revitalization Professional designation from the Main Street America Institute. Ms. Lanese joined the City of Stuart as Program Manager for the newly formed East Stuart Main Street program in December 2008 has been the Executive Director of Stuart Main Street since 2010.

Stuart Main Street is an Accredited Program of Main Street America, a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, Inc., a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Main Street America Institute (MSAI) started in 2016 to replace the Certified Main Street Manager program that had been discontinued in 2008. It is designed to provide revitalization professionals with the practical and strategic tools to engage their communities, build consensus, manage complex projects, and lead a results-oriented revitalization effort in a 21st century commercial district. Main Street America Revitalization Professional (MSARP) is the highest credential offered by MSAI, which also offers professional certificates in Leadership Development and Community Transformation. Participants who complete both certifications are eligible to sit for the exam for the MSARP Credential.

Only 21 professionals nationwide hold the MSARP designation. Lanese is the first Main Street Director in Florida to earn it, and the only person in the state to hold both the MSARP and Florida Redevelopment Administrator credentials.

Based on this accomplishment, I'm recommending Thondra Lanese as the City's Employee of the Month for the month for January, 2019.