



Our Path Forward: A Letter from Mayor Brudnicki

City of Panama City Long-Term Recovery Planning Project Phase II

October 8, 2020

While many of the impacts from Hurricane Michael were captured in photos of wrecked buildings, debris-filled waterways, and broken trees, our community experienced the aftermath and immediate recovery efforts first-hand. Almost as soon as the sky had cleared, however, we began to think about recovery: not just how to repair downed power lines and clear debris, but how we could fundamentally reimagine our community for generations to come.

In the last two years, a new vision for the City has crystalized. The City began a citizen-driven effort in 2019 to draft a blueprint of the City's long-term recovery plans. The City used these plans to implement recovery initiatives that would both create a resilient city and make the City of Panama City a community where residents, business-owners, students, and visitors thrive.

The City has pursued several state and federal resources to support the recovery and redevelopment of the community. Through these recovery programs, the City obtained over \$100 million in reimbursements to remove over 40 years of debris in the first 18 months after the storm, initiated infrastructure repairs, and pursued improvements to the City's parks and Marinas. Nearly \$40 million has been acquired through the State to support affordable housing for the City's residents. Programs like these have enabled the City to invest in recovery efforts that will directly benefit its most important asset: its residents.

The last 24 months have brought unmatched challenges and opportunities to the City of Panama City. COVID-19 and a formidable hurricane season have created serious challenges for the City and its residents. Despite these hurdles, however, the City continues to see success in its efforts to recover, rebuild, and grow.

This report is an exciting opportunity to share the progress that the City has made to date. While there is still work to be done, it is important that we celebrate the successes that the City, its residents, and its partners have won in the last two years. It is also important to note that this progress and momentum would not have been possible without the dedication and perseverance of the City staff, partners, and the community. Thank you for all of your hard work to #RebuildPC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Brudnicki".

Greg Brudnicki
Mayor of the City of Panama City