

JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR



TERRY F. WHITE
SECRETARY

October 11, 2002

Communities for a Lifetime Supporter

Dear Supporter:

As you are aware, *Communities for a Lifetime* is a statewide initiative begun by Governor Jeb Bush in 2002 to assist Florida cities, towns and counties in planning and implementing improvements that benefit the lives of all their residents, youthful or senior. This initiative is an outgrowth of the Governor's *Elder Ready Communities and Elder Friendly Businesses* initiative. The goal of these initiatives is to help Florida communities become better places to live, providing all residents with the opportunity to achieve their full potential and contribute to the betterment of their communities.

During the past few weeks, the Department of Elder Affairs has received several calls and letters regarding the permissible uses of terms (*e.g.* "Communities for a Lifetime," "Elder Ready Community," and "Elder Friendly Business") and materials (*e.g.* folders, summaries, brochures, reports cards, etc.) associated with these initiatives. These calls and letters have been prompted by a private party's efforts to claim ownership interests relating to the initiatives. I am writing to assure you that such claims have no legal basis and to allay any concerns you may have.

Please rest assured that **all** materials used and distributed by our agency related to *Communities for a Lifetime* and *Elder Ready Communities and Elder Friendly Businesses* have been developed by the Department of Elder Affairs. In addition, those materials contain no terms or logos that are subject to intellectual property rights of any private party. You are free to use the materials and terms related to the initiative without attribution, and since they belong to the Department, no other party may properly assert an ownership interest in them.

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The Department of Elder Affairs remains excited by the *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative and looks forward to our continued partnerships, as well as expanding on this strong foundation. If you have any need for further information or discussion regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T".

Tom Thomas
General Counsel