

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
MyFloridaTriumph.com

Mr. Michael E. White
City Manager
City of Lynn Haven
825 Ohio Avenue
Lynn Haven, Florida 32444

November 29, 2018

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for submitting an application for funding and the City's recent post-hurricane letter of support to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. We appreciate your time and effort and your commitment to creating a better Northwest Florida.

As you may know, Triumph Gulf Coast has received many more requests for funding than can be supported with the resources available to us. Unfortunately, after a thorough review by our professional advisors, it does not appear that your proposal meets our purposes and requirements for substantially improving the economy of the eight counties disproportionately affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

We are required by law to score each application as to its likely return on investment and potential for diversifying and enhancing our regional economy. Proposal # 56, "City of Lynn Haven – Sport Complex Expansion", was scored as a C based on the economic impact information provided in the application.

Proposals with a score of C, D, or F will not be recommended to our Board of Directors. There is no certainty that all A and B scored proposals will be funded.

The information provided in the application did not demonstrate adequate quantifiable performance metrics for creation of new jobs. Without such information regarding the measurable benefits to be generated from the project, it is not possible for our economists to determine the overall long term, sustainable economic benefits to the community.

While a sports complex is a useful expenditure, it may not be well matched to the Triumph funding mandate of increased economic activity. Triumph staff agree that net new visitors will spend their money locally and regionally and further enhance business opportunities. However, the type of impact that would make a big difference in terms of

increased levels of economic activity would rely critically on the attraction of net new visitors to the area. As correctly reflected in the proposal documentation provided in support of the project, it is likely that many of the users of the proposed new structure will be the same users as already benefit from the existing sports facilities. It seems likely that the project will not create substantial net new demand from visitors, and the additional jobs to be created would be largely in leisure and hospitality at lower wages, so that project benefits relative to Triumph cost would be modest.

Additionally, it appears that the requested funding would replace what would normally be done by government spending for public amenities with Triumph Gulf Coast funding. Our governing statute specifically prohibits supplanting of funding otherwise available through normal sources.

As you are aware, Triumph Gulf Coast is not the only source of funds arising from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. You may want to reach out to your County RESTORE Coordinator to determine if any of the other funding sources generated in the RESTORE Act could be used for this project.

We appreciate your participation and welcome any future proposals that more closely fulfill the purposes and requirements of Triumph Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Skelton".

Susan Skelton
Executive Director