



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 6, 2005
Contact: Stacey Swank, Business Development Manager
Pinellas County Economic Development
(727) 464-7425 or sswank@pinellascounty.org

**Commissioner Karen Williams Seel Recipient of
2005 Florida Redevelopment Association Special Achievement Award**

At today's Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners' meeting, it was announced that Commissioner Karen Williams Seel is the recipient of the Florida Redevelopment Association's 2005 W. Thomas Mills, Jr. Special Achievement Award. The award is given to an elected or appointed official recognized by the Florida Redevelopment Association as influential in redevelopment in the state of Florida; a person who has made an impact on redevelopment in her community and who provides real leadership as a model for other elected officials.

Commissioner Seel has an extensive and impressive history in local redevelopment. A past chair of the Pinellas County Commission and the Tourist Development Council, she remains in the forefront of efforts to improve transportation, encourage redevelopment, grow our economy and enhance Pinellas County's quality of life.

Commissioner Seel is a leader in Pinellas County redevelopment planning and the coordination of efforts amongst the 24 municipalities in Pinellas County. She has the utmost respect from the business and development communities and has been instrumental in recruiting membership for the Redevelopment Steering Committee. From this group, Seel created a permit advisory council to recommend updates to streamline Pinellas County's development review process.

Over the past three years, Commissioner Seel has been actively involved in three Redevelopment Summits involving concerned citizens, business leaders and elected officials, asking for their input and ideas of how best to plan for Pinellas County's inevitable growth and essential redevelopment. An integral participant in the formation of Pinellas by Design, Pinellas County's redevelopment plan, Seel consistently brings the subject of redevelopment to the forefront of Pinellas County planning initiatives and strives to keep the county's citizens informed and involved in redevelopment strategies and implementation.

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For more information about Pinellas by Design, please visit www.PinellasByDesign.org.

For more information regarding this release, please contact Stacey Swank at Pinellas County Economic Development at (727) 464-7425 or sswank@pinellascounty.org. Visit PCED online at www.pced.org.