

CITY OF AVENTURA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

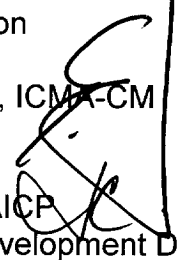
TO: City Commission

FROM: Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM
City Manager

BY: Joanne Carr, AICP
Community Development Director

DATE: June 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting Regional Planning Councils' funding application to develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development



July 6, 2010 City Commission Meeting Agenda Item 56

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt the attached Resolution.

BACKGROUND

The City has received the attached letter from the South Florida Regional Planning Council requesting support for its joint application with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for funding under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program. If awarded, the grant will be used to develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for Southeast Florida.

The proposed Regional Plan for Sustainable Development is intended to incorporate all current local plans and initiatives into one region-wide plan for Southeast Florida. The region-wide plan will provide access to state and federal funding resources for these plans and initiatives.



May 14, 2010

Mr. Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CA
City Manager
City of Aventura
19200 W. Country Club Drive
Aventura, FL 33180

Dear Mr. Soroka:

I am pleased to invite the City of Aventura to become part of an exciting new initiative that is underway in Southeast Florida. The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils are developing a joint application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program through a collaborative effort of the "Southeast Florida Regional Partnership." This is a growing partnership of public, private, non-profit, and civic stakeholders from the seven-county region of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties. This partnership includes, but is not limited to, water resource, housing, environmental and transportation agencies; local governments; non-profits; human services funders; community-based and civic organizations; academia and research institutions; school boards and other educational partners; economic development organizations; and private sector organizations.

A key component of the Sustainable Communities Initiative is the development of a "Regional Plan for Sustainable Development" for regions that lack a cohesive, integrated regional "vision" across issue areas and jurisdictional boundaries. This program is expected to provide up to \$5 million for large metropolitan regions to support the development of the Regional Plan. This Plan will serve as the framework for future federal investment and support the efforts of individual counties, municipalities and other partners whose plans and projects further the implementation of the regional vision and plan.

The absence of a regional, collaborative partnership and shared vision for Southeast Florida has left our region at a competitive disadvantage when we seek to access needed state and federal resources. Envision Utah, One Bay (Tampa), Portland Metro 2040, Denver Metro Vision 2040, Sacramento Area Blueprint (2004), and Myregion.org (Orlando) are examples of regions that have well established multi-sector partnerships and regional strategies for quality communities and growth. We can and must do better if we are to build a prosperous and sustainable region and access the resources Southeast Florida needs to move ahead.

We hope that the City of Aventura will consider adding its support to this effort by executing the enclosed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and preparing a letter and/or resolution of support that can accompany the federal funding application due this summer. We ask that you please designate a point of contact for your organization to ensure that you are kept fully up-to-date with information about ongoing activities and opportunities to participate in the work of the Partnership.

Mr. Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CA

May 14, 2010

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The HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), with specific grant requirements, is expected to be published in the next few weeks. At this time we are anticipating an application due date in mid-summer. Please find herewith additional information related to this effort and the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program. Electronic copies of the Abstract, Memorandum of Understanding, Sample Resolution of Support, and the Sample Letter of Support can be accessed at www.sfrpc.com by clicking on the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership logo.

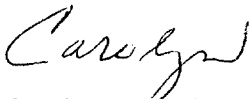
- Abstract
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Cover Letter from Council Chairs Scuotto and Ferreri
- SFRPC / TCRPC Resolutions
- Sample Resolution of Support
- Sample Letter of Support
- Memorandum of Understanding

Additional information about the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program can be accessed at:

<http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center/affecting-policy/Sustainable%20Communities%20Planning%20Grants%20Webinar%20slides.pdf>

Thank you in advance for your time, consideration, and support. I look to you for guidance regarding what are the next steps related to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) of Council staff, if we can provide you with additional information or otherwise be of assistance.

Sincerely,

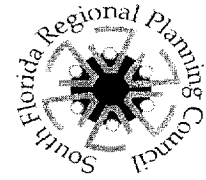


Carolyn A. Dekle
Executive Director

CAD/kal

Enclosures

cc: Michael J. Busha, TCRPC



ABSTRACT

May 14, 2010

Sustainable Communities Initiative

A federal partnership initiative of US HUD, DOT, and EPA

On June 16 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new partnership to regionally coordinate federal housing, environmental protection, and transportation planning and investment. Federal funding to support this effort is being provided under HUD's Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program.

In the past, the absence of a regional, collaborative partnership and shared vision for Southeast Florida has left our region at a competitive disadvantage when we seek to access needed state and federal resources. Envision Utah, One Bay (Tampa), Portland Metro 2040, Denver Metro Vision 2040, Sacramento Area Blueprint (2004), and Myregion.org (Orlando) are examples of regions that have well established multi-sector partnerships and regional strategies for quality communities and growth. While progress has been made in many issue areas, including transportation, water supply, and climate change planning with the recent signing of the four-county Regional Compact, these examples are the exception rather than the rule. We must do better if we are to build a prosperous and sustainable region and access the resources Southeast Florida needs to move ahead.

The Southeast Florida region includes Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties. Together this seven-county Region represents the 5th largest metropolitan area in the country. These seven counties, though diverse, have much in common including a shared history, environment and watershed, economic interdependence, transportation system, and recreational, social and cultural activities. This seven county area is classified as "Southeast Florida" by Enterprise Florida, and defined as the "Southeast Region" in the Strategic Intermodal Plan of the Florida Department of Transportation.

A key component of the Sustainable Communities Initiative is the development of a "Regional Plan for Sustainable Development" for regions that lack a cohesive, integrated regional "vision" across issue areas and jurisdictional boundaries. In Southeast Florida, significant resources, time and effort have been invested in planning throughout the years. There are existing regional relationships and partnerships that can be strengthened and expanded. The challenge is to integrate these partnerships and efforts across issue areas and jurisdictional lines and reach agreement on the critical infrastructure investments needed to move the region forward.

The U.S. HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative is the region's best opportunity to access up to \$5 million to articulate and develop consensus around a "Regional Vision" and "Regional Plan for Sustainable Development." It is expected that this Plan will: 1) serve as the framework for future federal investment; 2) support the efforts of individual counties, municipalities and other regional partners whose plans and projects further the implementation of the regional Vision and Plan; and 3) put the Southeast Florida Region in the best position possible to capture federal funds for critical infrastructure projects designed to improve the region's sustainability.

The South Florida Regional Planning Council and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council are coordinating the development of a comprehensive joint application for Sustainable Communities Initiative funding on behalf of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership. The Partnership represents a broad-based group of regional stakeholders, including but not limited to, water resource, housing, human services, environmental and transportation agencies and organizations; community-based organizations; health care organizations and funders; local governments; non-profits; academia and research institutions; and private sector organizations.

Several organizational meetings with the regional stakeholders have occurred and are scheduled. Necessary pre-application work has been performed by the Councils that will assist in preparing and submitting a complete application on time. The Councils have requested from its partners letters and resolutions of support and, where appropriate, the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize the regional partnership. These documents will accompany the application. The HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is expected to be published in May 2010. The NOFA will contain additional information related to application dates and other requirements.

For additional information, please contact:

South Florida Regional Planning Council
954.985.4416

Carolyn A. Dekle (cdekle@sfrpc.com)
Executive Director

Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com)
Coordinator, Legislative & Public Affairs
Cell 954.240.3012

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
772.221.4060

Michael J. Busha (mbusha@tcrpc.org)
Executive Director

Liz Gulick (lgulick@tcrpc.org)
Administrative Supervisor



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership?

The Southeast Florida Regional Partnership is a growing broad-based, multi-sector partnership composed of public, private, non-profit, community-based and civic stakeholders from Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties. Partnership members include, but are not limited to, private sector organizations; water resource, housing, environmental and transportation agencies and organizations; local governments; non-profits; philanthropic organizations; human services funders; community-based and civic organizations; academia and research institutions; school boards and other educational partners; and economic development organizations.

The Southeast Florida Regional Partnership is building upon existing working relationships and partnerships to establish a regional partnership and develop an application to the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program. This program is sponsored by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in coordination with the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Partnership members are committed to the sustainable development and redevelopment of Southeast Florida, and support the following "Livability Principles."

1. Provide more transportation choices;
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing;
3. Enhance economic competitiveness;
4. Support existing communities;
5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment;
6. Value communities and neighborhoods; and
7. Enhance community resiliency to the impacts of climate change.

Do these seven counties really have that much in common?

The Southeast Florida region is comprised of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. Together, this region represents the 5th largest metropolitan area in the country. These seven counties, though diverse, have much in common including a shared history, environment and watershed, economic interdependence, transportation system, and recreational, social and cultural activities. This seven county area is classified as "Southeast Florida" by Enterprise Florida, and defined as the "Southeast Region" in the Strategic Intermodal Plan of the Florida Department of Transportation.

Does the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership exist only for the purpose of applying for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program?

The opportunity presented by the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program has provided renewed impetus for bringing together and expanding existing local and regional partnerships under the umbrella of a new "Southeast Florida Regional Partnership." Just as other parts of the state and country have proactively organized themselves to more effectively address opportunities and challenges facing their regions, the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership has the potential to provide tremendous value and leadership in Southeast Florida beyond any individual grant opportunity. The Partnership needs to continue to mature and evolve into a forum where discussion and decision-making on issues of regional importance can occur.

What are the roles of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils in this Initiative?

The Governing Boards of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils have directed their respective staffs to spearhead the formal organization of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership, and preparation of a regional application to the U.S. HUD's Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program. The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils are also members of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership.

The word "Sustainable" is used a lot. What does it mean?

The concept of sustainability holds that the demands of today must not supersede the needs of the future. Sustainability is often narrowly associated with natural systems but in reality applies to the entire living environment. This environment includes social and economic systems that are also demanding on finite resources.

Sustainable development of the Region requires balance between the resource requirements of the environment, the economy, and society. Bold strategies supporting the social and economic components of sustainability are needed in South Florida, and they must reflect interdependent relationships between the natural environment, built environment, social institutions, and the economy.

What is the Sustainable Communities Initiative and Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program?

On June 16 2009, the U.S. HUD, DOT, and EPA announced an Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The goal of this interagency partnership is to regionally coordinate federal housing, environmental protection, and transportation planning and investment. Federal funding to support this effort is being provided under HUD's Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program.

The Fiscal Year 2010-11 Federal Budget includes \$150 million in start-up funding for the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program. A fund of \$100 million has been created to encourage metropolitan regions to articulate a vision for growth tailored to specific metropolitan markets that federal housing, transportation, and other federal

investments can support. A fund of \$40 million is earmarked to support the update of local land use and zoning rules and assist states and localities in the design and implementation of planning reforms at the local and regional levels that will support the creation of "affordable, economically vital and sustainable communities." The remaining \$10 million will support research and evaluation efforts. Second year funding (FY2011-12) for the Program is currently being discussed in Washington.

What do we know about the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program?

The HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is not expected to be released until late May, early June 2010. The Pre-NOFA that was released in March clearly states that the goal of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program is to support **multi-jurisdictional regional planning efforts** that integrate housing, economic development, and transportation decision-making in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of economic growth, social equity and environmental impact simultaneously.

Three funding categories are being considered:

Category 1 - Funding to support the preparation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development that address housing, economic development, transportation, and environmental quality in an integrated fashion where such plans do not currently exist;

Category 2 - Funding to support the preparation of more detailed execution plans and programs to implement existing regional sustainable development plans (that address housing, economic development, transportation, and environmental quality in an integrated fashion); and

Category 3 - Implementation funding to support regions that have regional sustainable development plans and implementation strategies in place and need support for a catalytic project or program that demonstrates commitment to and implementation of the broader plan.

Criteria "Livability Principles"

HUD, EPA, and DOT have adopted the following six "Livability Principles" to guide their strategic activities and investments. The Southeast Florida Regional Partnership has adopted the six principles and added a seventh "Enhance community resiliency to the impacts of climate change."

1. Provide more transportation choices;
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing;
3. Enhance economic competitiveness;
4. Support existing communities;
5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment;
6. Value communities and neighborhoods; and
7. Enhance community resiliency to the impacts of climate change.

Where does Southeast Florida fit in?

Southeast Florida clearly fits into Category 1 – development of a “Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.” What is not clear at this time is whether grant applicants will be able to apply for funding in more than one category, particularly absent the existence of an adopted Regional Vision and Plan.

A key component of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program is the development of a “Regional Plan for Sustainable Development” for regions that lack a cohesive, integrated regional “vision” across issue areas and jurisdictional boundaries.

In Southeast Florida, significant resources, time and effort have been invested in planning throughout the years. There are existing regional relationships and partnerships that can be strengthened and expanded. The challenge is to integrate these partnerships and efforts across issue areas and jurisdictional lines and reach agreement on a preferred future for the region and critical infrastructure investments needed to move the region forward.

Why is it important to develop the “Regional Plan for Sustainable Development”?

The HUD’s Sustainable Communities Initiative is the region’s best opportunity to access up to \$5 million to articulate and develop consensus around a “Regional Vision” and “Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.” It is expected that this Plan will: 1) serve as the framework for future federal investment; 2) support the efforts of individual counties, municipalities and other regional partners whose plans and projects further the implementation of the regional Vision and Plan; and 3) put the Southeast Florida Region in the best position possible to capture **future federal funds** for critical infrastructure projects designed to improve the region’s sustainability.

The absence of a regional, collaborative partnership and shared vision for Southeast Florida has left our region at a competitive disadvantage when we seek to access needed state and federal resources. Envision Utah, One Bay (Tampa), Portland Metro 2040, Denver Metro Vision 2040, Sacramento Area Blueprint (2004), and Myregion.org (Orlando) are examples of regions that have well established multi-sector partnerships and regional strategies for quality communities and growth. While Southeast Florida has made progress in many issue areas, including transportation, water supply, and climate change planning with the recent signing of the four-county Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, these examples are the exception rather than the rule.

How much funding is available?

In Fiscal Year 2010-11, approximately \$98-100 million is available for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program for the three categories of funding discussed above. According to the HUD Pre-NOFA, the grant amount awarded under the Program to an eligible entity that represents a large metropolitan area with a population of 500,000 or more may not exceed \$5,000,000. Additional information will be available once the NOFA is released.

What is the grant match requirement?

HUD expects that “at least 20 percent of the overall costs of the projects awarded under this grant will include leveraged funding from other public, philanthropic and private sources including in-kind contributions.” Additional information will be contained in the NOFA once it is released.

Where does the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership expect to get its match?

Southeast Florida’s public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic partners are making significant investments to promote the creation of more sustainable communities. Project consultants assisting the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership are researching whether or not these existing investments may count toward the 20% match requirement. We will bring to the Partnership their research findings and guidance from the NOFA once it released for discussion on the match issue.

Who is applying for the grant on behalf of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership?

The South Florida Regional Planning Council, in partnership with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, is applying for the grant.

If the grant funds are awarded, how will they be used?

The grant funds will be used to support the development of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership, and development and implementation of a work plan which will lead to the creation and adoption of the Regional Vision and Plan for Sustainable Development.

Why should my organization participate or support this effort? How will this benefit my community?

The development of the Regional Vision and Plan for Sustainable Development will require broad input and collaboration from stakeholders and communities throughout the region. To the extent that the priorities of your organization contribute to a more sustainable region – communities, economy, and environment – and are articulated in the adopted Vision and Plan, it is expected that they will be elevated and given greater weight when under consideration for future state and federal funding.

How can you and/or your organization support this regional effort?

Everyone can contribute to this regional initiative.

1. Join the South Florida Regional Partnership!
2. Execute the Partnership Memorandum of Understanding
3. Write a Letter of Support for the grant application
4. Pass a Resolution in support of this regional initiative
5. Help grow the Partnership by reaching out to potential partner organizations
6. Become a member of the application development team

The Memorandum of Understanding, sample letter of support, and sample resolution can be accessed via www.sfrpc.com by clicking on the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership logo.

What is expected of Partner organizations?

The Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program is specifically designed to support the efforts and collaborations of regional partnerships. At this point in time, it is expected that Partner members, organizations and individuals, will work collaboratively and in good faith to grow the Partnership and assist in the preparation of a competitive application to the extent that they are able.

It is hoped that "Partner" organizations will execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and support the application with a letter and resolution of support. The MOU is the "Partnership" document. The use of a "Partnership Agreement," similar to the MOU, was an important component of the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership's successful application to become one of sixteen original "Brownfields Showcase Communities" in 1998.

This document is important because it affirms the existence of a committed group of regional stakeholders that are working together to forward the seven livability principles outlined above, six of which are specific priorities of U.S. HUD, EPA, and DOT.

Will signing the MOU obligate me in any way?

The MOU is not a legal document. It does not obligate the signatory to provide anything, including financial or staff resources. Participation in the work of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership is voluntary.

For additional information, please contact:

South Florida Regional Planning Council
954.985.4416

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
772.221.4060

Carolyn A. Dekle (cdekle@sfrpc.com)
Executive Director

Michael J. Busha (mbusha@tcrpc.org)
Executive Director

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Liz Gulick (lgulick@tcrpc.org)
Administrative Supervisor

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-___

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF AVENTURA SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA IN PREPARING A COMPREHENSIVE JOINT APPLICATION UNDER THE FEDERAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE AND ESTABLISHING A WORKING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH PUBLIC, PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT, AND CIVIC SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WATER RESOURCE, HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES, ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, NONPROFITS, ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOL BOARDS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS.

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new partnership to regionally coordinate federal housing, environmental protection, and transportation planning and investment; and

WHEREAS, this new partnership is looking to multidisciplinary regional councils of government to identify and coordinate regional strategies that:

- Provide a regional vision or plan for sustainable growth
- Integrate housing, water infrastructure, transportation, land use planning and investment
- Address energy efficiency
- Address the impacts of climate change through the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Foster compatibility of sustainable built systems with restoration of the Florida Everglades
- Promote the creation of equitable, sustainable communities
- Promote social equity and access to opportunity
- Promote environmental protection and restoration
- Redevelop underutilized sites
- Leverage federal investment in existing communities
- Promote equitable affordable housing
- Increase economic competitiveness
- Promote multi-modal, regional transportation systems, and healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods – rural, urban or suburban

WHEREAS, there is a clear understanding that the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program is designed to support the development of a comprehensive regional plan or vision identifying critical projects and infrastructure to improve the

Region's sustainability and to be used as a guide by federal funding agencies to prioritize and focus future federal investment; and

WHEREAS, any application for funding under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program should be prepared in consultation with the appropriate water resource, housing, environmental, and transportation agencies, local governments, nonprofits, academia and research institutions, school boards, community-based organizations, and private sector organizations; and should include a formalized agreement among these entities to work cooperatively on the application and funded project; and

WHEREAS, the regional planning councils of Southeast Florida should commit the resources necessary within the limits of their budgets and work programs to prepare and submit a successful joint application under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF AVENTURA, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The City of Aventura strongly supports the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils in preparing a comprehensive joint application for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program, and the establishment of a working partnership agreement with regional stakeholders, including, but not limited to, water resource, housing, environmental, and transportation agencies, local governments, nonprofits, academia and research institutions, school boards, community-based organizations, and private sector organizations.

Section 2. The City Manager is authorized to take all actions necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

- Commissioner Zev Auerbach _____
- Commissioner Bob Diamond _____
- Commissioner Teri Holzberg _____
- Commissioner Billy Joel _____
- Commissioner Luz Urbaez Weinberg _____
- Vice Mayor Michael Stern _____
- Mayor Susan Gottlieb _____

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of July, 2010.

SUSAN GOTTLIEB, MAYOR

ATTEST:

TERESA M. SOROKA, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CITY ATTORNEY

This Resolution was filed in the Office of the City Clerk this _____ day of July, 2010

CITY CLERK