MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 26, 2016

TO: Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Planning and Zoning Board

FROM: Claire Jubb, Community Development Department Director
Shaun Cullinan, Charlotte County Planning and Zoning Official
Jie Shao, Planner, Principal

RE: **Creating New Section 3-9-85.1: Billboards**

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is requesting that the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve the proposed revisions to Chapter 3-9, Zoning by creating new Section 3-9-85.1: Billboards.

The Planning and Zoning Board proposed recommendations:

The Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Board recommends *approval/Denial* of the proposed revisions to Chapter 3-9, Zoning by creating new Section 3-9-85.1: Billboards.

Analysis:

Per the Board's direction, staff is proposing to amend Chapter 3-9, Zoning, by creating new Section 3-9-85.1: Billboards. The intent of this new section will allow the existing Billboards to be repaired, refurbished or replaced to meet the current standards in order to improve their appearance within the County. This change will also allow for a bit of flexibility to relocate the existing billboard to a new location on the same parcel if it meets certain criteria, such as a visibility (safety only, not better visibility of the sign) or setback issue.

Detailed Changes:

The new section will define "Billboards" and provide requirements of repair, refurbishment and replacement of these Billboards.

Sec. 3-9-85.1. Billboards

(a). The intent of this section is to regulate the billboards in a manner that improves their appearance.

(b). A Billboard is defined as a sign over 150 square feet in size, or a sign for which a special exception was approved for a Class B sign before August 16, 2011, or a sign for which a state permit or license has been issued as an outdoor advertising devise pursuant to Chapter 479, Florida Statutes.

(c). All Billboards existing as of January 1, 2016 are considered legal non-conforming signs. Said signs can be repaired, refurbished and replaced with a sign of the same dimension in the same location on the same parcel; such signs may be relocated to a different location on the same parcel with the Zoning Official's approval, and the review criteria for approval shall include, but not be limited to, public safety, visual impact and location constraints. In no case shall a relocated Billboard be closer than 2,000 feet to an existing Billboard.

(d). Billboards located along the Interstate Highway System shall meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Transportation with regard to height. In all other areas, the maximum Billboard height shall be 30 feet.