



## **Barry L. Donaldson**

Founder and Architect (FL 9877), Donaldson Group Architects PA  
HIGHLAND BEACH RESIDENT SINCE FEBRUARY 2001

### **BACKGROUND and EDUCATION:**

Barry is a 1973 graduate of the five-year Bachelor of Architecture program at the University of Kentucky. Following graduation, he worked for a non-profit agency in Lexington, Kentucky on low-income tenant housing issues. He was then retained to assist the first Commissioner for Parks, Housing and Community Development in the newly formed Lexington Fayette Urban County Government to establish Section 8 housing programs and assist displaced residents during construction of a large-scale civic project.

Mr. Donaldson then pursued his architectural career with Omni Architects where he rose to the position of Senior Associate as the firm grew from three to over thirty employees. It was during that tenure that he became involved in hotel and resort design. He left the firm after six years to become the managing architect in Florida for Arcop Architects. As a principal of the firm, he led design teams for major hotel and performing arts center projects. Subsequently he founded his own firm, Donaldson Group Architects in 1989, with a specialty in hotel and resort design.

Barry is an NCARB certified architect with projects to his credit in Kentucky, Florida, New Jersey, Indiana, North Carolina, St. Thomas and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In 2020 he earned certification from Cornell University for Hotel Real Estate Investments and Asset Management.

### **CIVIC INVOLVEMENT NARRATIVE:**

In February of 2019 Barry was selected to fill a vacancy as a Commissioner for the Town of Highland Beach. Due to the timing of the vacancy, he served in that capacity for a little over one year. During that time, he worked diligently and cooperatively with other Commissioners to fill a Vice-Mayor vacancy, address a backlog of issues and ordinances, advanced a referendum for town improvements, and adopt the first purpose-based budget for the town under Town Manager Marshall Labadie.

He also served on the League of Cities policy committee for Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works.

He advocated strongly for the continued water quality in Highland Beach and supported initiatives to improve infrastructure, increase storm resiliency and enhance the three-mile walkway along A1A.

From these and other involvements he became more familiar with the Town Charter, ordinances, and departmental operations under our City Manager form of government.

### **SUMMARY of CIVIC AND VOLUNTEER WORK:**

Commissioner, Town of Highland Beach (Feb 2019-March 2020 vacancy appointment)

League of Cities, policy committee for Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works.

Chairman, Highland Beach Board of Adjustment and Appeals, 2012-2016

Member, Highland Beach Planning Board, 2016-2019

Town of Highland Beach, candidate for Commissioner 2017

Town of Highland Beach A1A Entrance Signage Design.

Member, Highland Beach committee to evaluate solid waste disposal Request for Proposals

Volunteer review of renovation plans for Town Hall.

Prior Member, Board of Directors, Toscana North Condominium Association (prior President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary)

Member of Distinction and Silver Eagle Society, Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

Member, American Institute of Architects, Palm Beach Chapter (former Treasurer)