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## New Council Member Bob Alex Says Flagler's On The Move

**May 16, 2014 Bunnell Fl.** -- Bob Alex was appointed to the Economic Development Advisory Council in January.

Like the other members on the Council, his business experience is extensive. The business accomplishments came following a lengthy period of service both in the New York National Guard (8 years) and the U.S. Air Force/Civil Air Patrol (over 25 years). In the Civil Air Patrol he served as a Wing Commander, headquartered at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. Alex was elevated to the rank of Colonel. There were more than 1,300 personnel under his command, in addition to assets which included: aircraft, ground search and rescue equipment, and communications equipment.

He is also the former vice chairman of an economic redevelopment agency in New Jersey, founder and president of a publically held company, vice president of franchise development and branding for a regional food chain and a business strategies consultant.

Alex noticed Flagler County early in its development and bought property here in 1972. He and his wife Edna moved here full time in 2004.

Alex would like to see Flagler County reach its full potential. His desire is to bring in industries that suit the county's environment while at the same time provide a stabilizing tax income for the services residents need.

"I would love to see what Flagler County could really be," Alex said. "It has all the natural aspects and it could build a tax base for those who want to retire here or raise a family in Flagler County."

Flagler County created the Department of Economic Opportunity as a result of the 2011 series of economic summits. Alex said, "The County took the lead and funded a department with the expertise to bring new businesses that make sense for county, create the atmosphere to foster job growth, and add to the county's tax base," Alex said.

"Bringing in people with experience is important. They can really see the picture, the key to success, and where we need to go,"

Six new companies now call Flagler County home, including AVEO Engineering, a company that plans to hire 300 employees. The county has also worked with existing companies seeking to expand, including TBD Partners.

"We have the plan, we have the team," Alex said. "We are a county on the move."

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