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KAMARA

Flagler County Welcomes Kamara Stone
Economic Development Confidence in Flagler County

October 6, 2017 - Kamara, a natural stone company located in the Republic of Georgia, has chosen Flagler County as its first venture in the U.S. market. Revealed during Flagler County's Economic Opportunity Advisory Council Meeting, the endeavor was code-named "Project Tempest."

Kamara Stone, and the subsequent Project Tempest was introduced to the Economic Opportunity Department by local realtor Cornelia Manfre. During the council meeting, she expressed Kamara Stone's high level of quality in their natural stone products. *"Kamara's plans are quite grand. It is a well-founded company that will compete, but they offer a different type of product,"* Manfre said, emphasizing both the quality of the company and their product.

An initial capital investment of \$1.5 million from Kamara will seek to open a distribution center in Flagler County. The importation of natural stone from the Republic of Georgia will come through the Port of Jacksonville. *"The plan over the next 2-3 years is to not only do the importing but also do the design, creation, and sculpting."* van Eckert stated, describing that Kamara would start with distribution to prove the market, and later expand to include manufacturing of product.

On Monday, October 2nd, County officials approved plans for a \$15,000 performance-based incentive package to be paid out over six years. Kamara intends to create 10 new jobs each year for three years with an annual economic impact of \$1.8 million.

About Kamara Stone: Kamara Stone is headquartered in Tbilisi, Georgia. Kamara Stone US is an official distributor of Kamara and Flagler County will be its first expansion point in the United States. The company offers high quality natural stone products to countries around the world. Kamara owns four quarries in The Republic of Georgia in which their excavation and processing is completed. The mission statement of Kamara Stone US is to bring their customers the highest quality natural stone products to satisfy the most sophisticated needs.

About Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity: As the county's business recruitment and expansion entity, the Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity provides the leadership to strengthen and diversify the local economy. Its charge is to seek out opportunities that build a strong economic platform, thus empowering local businesses, creating jobs and securing capital investment in the community.

About Cornelia Manfre: Cornelia currently works for Watson Realty Corp. and is considered one of the area's most experienced commercial realtors with 37 years in the trade. She was originally licensed in New York, and has been licensed in Florida for the past 17 years. Having worked for Fortune 100 firms while in New York, her background has included corporate real estate, leasing, sales, management, acquisitions and development spanning over a 20 year term. Cornelia's commercial work in the Flagler County area has included land sales for the Cobblestone Village for Lowe's and Belk, Kohl's and Publix-SunTrust in the Hammock. In addition to land transactions, Cornelia leases and sells retail, office and industrial properties.