

Ramond Chiamonte Named to Prestigious Planning College of Fellows

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Tampa, FL (March 30, 2016) – Ramond Chiamonte, AICP, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA), and former Executive Director of the Hillsborough County Planning Commission and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), has achieved the planning profession’s highest honor by being named to the prestigious American Institute of Certified Planners College of Fellows (FAICP) for his outstanding achievements in urban planning.

Fellowship is granted to planners certified through the American Planning Association’s (APA) professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership. Invitations to join the College of Fellows come after a thorough nomination and review process, ensuring the candidate has had a positive, long-lasting impact on the planning profession.

“Individuals who make up the College of Fellows are the true leaders of the planning profession,” said AICP President Valerie Hubbard, FAICP. “These individuals have made lasting contributions to the profession and have inspired generations of new planners. They are truly awe-inspiring.”

Throughout his thirty-plus year career in the planning profession, Chiamonte has made many notable contributions to Hillsborough County and the Tampa Bay region, including: Completion of 22 community plans, many based on New Urbanism, for future neighborhood directions that have charted a unique course for each community; the award winning Livable Roadways Study, an approach that introduced design standards, set a funding basis for landscaping and pedestrian amenities on new roadways, and created the MPO Livable Roadways Committee which exists as part of the MPO planning process to this day; and, the creation of the quarterly government access television program, “Beyond Today.”

“Beyond Today” ran 70 episodes and brought planning issues directly into the homes of residents helping them to understand the role of planning in their communities. “It is probably the thing I am most proud of, because it taught a lot of people about the principles of planning that have helped our community get where it is today,” said Chiamonte. The program won two National Telly Awards for public service on television.

“I have learned in my career that so much can be accomplished when people work together without expecting thanks, doing what is necessary because they truly care about their community and its future. We can accomplish so much when we work together, and I have great confidence we will continue to do that in the future,” Chiamonte added.

Chiamonte is one of 61 inductees into this year’s College of Fellows. Inductions are done biennially. This year’s formal induction will take place during APA’s National Planning Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, on Sunday, April 3. Currently, there are 508 members in the College of Fellows.

For more information, visit www.planning.org, or contact Michael Case, TBARTA Senior Planner and Project Manager, at Michael.Case@tbarta.com