## Okaloosa County News Release

5/7/2012 Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, <u>knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us</u>

## **Okaloosa County Names Greg Donovan Interim TDC Director**

Okaloosa County Airports Director Greg Donovan has been selected as the interim director for the Tourist Development Council (TDC). Donovan is replacing Mark Bellinger, who recently died amidst the controversy surrounding the misuse of tourism funds. The interim director is expected to work at least four months in the position, while a replacement is sought.

"At this time of a terrible tragedy, our thoughts are with Mark's family first. Beyond the tragic decisions that were made by an individual, it is important to bring stability to the TDC and ensure that a very important component of our community – tourism – is properly supported," stated Greg Donovan.

"My role is to bring temporary leadership to the efforts of our TDC while a permanent executive director is recruited. It is so important that the people that worked with Mark have an opportunity to mourn. In the days and weeks to come, the accountability of full investigations will follow and anything that was broken will be fixed. I look forward to working with TDC staff, the board, and industry partners, many of whom I know firsthand via the airport, to the betterment of Northwest Florida's Emerald Coast," added Donovan.

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