

WATCH: New Merritt Island Welcome Sign Unveiled by County Leaders, Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency

By *Space Coast Daily* // June 8, 2022

ABOVE VIDEO: Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency and District 2 Brevard County Commissioners Office are proud to unveil a new welcome sign that reflects the pride and legacy of Brevard County. In a perfectly themed costume, Chief of Staff Fritz VanVolkenburgh read a decree dedicating the new sign.



ABOVE VIDEO: Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency and District 2 Brevard County Commissioners Office are proud to unveil a new welcome sign that reflects the pride and legacy of Brevard County. In a perfectly themed costume, Chief of Staff Fritz VanVolkenburgh read a decree dedicating the new sign.



BREVARD COUNTY • MERRITT ISLAND, FLORIDA – A new, modern illuminated sign was unveiled on Tuesday at the northern entrance to Merritt Island off N. Courtenay Blvd.

The purpose – to welcome people to Merritt Island. This greeting has a good ring to it, and what better way than to say it in a sign.

The road to the June 7, 2022 unveiling of the new 'Welcome to Merritt Island' sign began with a March 2019 email from former County Commissioner Ron Pritchard to Commissioner Bryan Lober, who had recently taken office.

Pritchard commented on the shoddiness of the sign outside of the commission office on North Courtenay Pkwy, and sought help in its restoration. Pritchard recollected how this was the last of four signs that had been erected nearly two decades ago, when the motto "Where Dreams are Launched" was selected by

competition.

Commission staff determined that the sign was beyond repair, and proposed that a new sign be built and erected. The Space Coast Association of Realtors agreed to help, but unfortunately a County ordinance prohibited that funding avenue.

The Commission office then turned to the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA), whose board of directors strongly agreed to finance the new sign.



“Thanks to the diligent efforts of MIRA staff and the Brevard County Facilities team, a larger and redesigned sign was finally erected. Sadly, Ron Pritchard passed away last year, but we truly believe he would have approved of the new sign.” said Fritz Van Vanvolkenburgh

At the June 7th sign unveiling, the crowd that gathered under the cloudless sky included Melodie and Charles Tucker, who, along with two other Islanders, had submitted the motto “Where Dreams are Launched.”

It's comforting to know that while signs may be replaced, folks like the Tuckers continue to live the dream in Merritt Island.