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## PRESS RELEASE

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#### Main Street Milton Hires New Executive Director Edward E. Spears selected to lead Main Street into the future

Milton, Florida (May 25, 2018) - - Main Street Milton, a 501c3 Not-for Profit Florida Corporation, is focused on revitalizing the historic, traditional downtown Milton Business District. Created in 2001, Main Street Milton works with all community stakeholders to preserve, promote and enhance the district through a collaborative approach focused on economic development, historical and architectural preservation.

Following the death of Ms. Sammy Carroll, former president of Main Street Milton, the organization began to look to the future. With a renewed relationship with the City of Milton and other community stakeholders, the recruitment of a new Executive Director was undertaken. Following the interview process, Mr. Edward E. Spears of Gulf Breeze, FL. was selected as the new Executive Director.

Mr. Spears brings 20 years of local government experience, having worked for the City of Pensacola, FL, the City of Richmond, VA and the City of Tallahassee, FL. He served as the Executive Director for the Community Maritime Park Associates for nine (9) years, leading that organization to successful completion of the construction of the Maritime Park project in downtown Pensacola. Mr. Spears additionally served as the Interim Executive Director at the Pensacola Little Theatre, having previously served on the Board of Trustees for eight (8) years. Mr. Spears' background includes extensive grant writing and grant management, as well as leading economic development initiatives for the communities he served.

“Mr. Spears’ education, knowledge and experience made him a clear choice for the selection panel” said Main Street Milton Board Interim President Ms. Sharon Henderson. Adding, “with his positive outlook and excitement for the opportunity at Main Street Milton, the Board is ready to enter into a new phase of growth working with Ed, the community, the City of Milton and anyone with a passion to see Milton flourish”

Mr. Spears is a native of Pensacola, FL. where he graduated from B. T. Washington High School. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and History and a Master of Public Administration Degree, all from Florida State University. He is married to Mrs. Stephanie Lawrence Yelton, head women’s basketball coach at the University of West Florida. Together, they have four children: Hannah Spears, 20; Ben Spears, 17; Bobby Yelton, 8; and Toby Yelton, 5. Their family is active in collegiate and youth sports, the arts, community, civic and social groups and are avid travelers.

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