ORDINANCE NO. 04-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DEBARY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF FERTILIZER USE; IMPLEMENTING THE FDEP'S MODEL ORDINANCE FOR FLORIDA-FRIENDLY FERTILIZER USE ON URBAN LANDSCAPES; AMENDING CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE VIII ("FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT") OF THE CITY CODE; AMENDING AND ADDING REGULATIONS REGARDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INTENT, DEFINITIONS, APPLICABILITY, TIMING OF FERTILIZER APPLICATION, FERTILIZER FREE ZONES, LOW MAINTENANCE ZONES, FERTILIZER CONTENT AND APPLICATION RATES, APPLICATION PRACTICES, MANAGEMENT OF GRASS CLIPPINGS AND VEGETATIVE MATTER, EXEMPTIONS, TRAINING AND LICENSING OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER APPLICATORS, AND ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on or about April 15, 2009, the City of DeBary (the "City") adopted Ordinance No. 04-09, implementing certain regulations with respect to the use of fertilizer, which regulations are codified at Chapter 30, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances, City of DeBary, Florida (the "City Code"); and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to strengthen its fertilizer regulations in order to more fully address the issues and concerns expressed by the City in its findings in the "Whereas" clauses of Ordinance No. 04-09, which findings are adopted by reference; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated the Model Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes (the "Model Ordinance"), which all county and municipal governments are encouraged to adopt under Section 403.9337, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that adoption of the Model Ordinance within the City will strengthen the City's regulations and advance the purposes of the City's fertilizer regulations; and

WHEREAS, Volusia County has adopted a version of the Model Ordinance, and the City finds that adopting an ordinance similar to Volusia County's ordinance will have the added benefit of encouraging a uniform county-wide approach to fertilizer regulation; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that it is in the interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of DeBary and the general public for the City to amend its fertilizer regulations as provided herein and to adopt a version of the Model Ordinance similar to Volusia County's ordinance.

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF DEBARY AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. Recitals. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. Amendment of City Code. It is hereby ordained by the City of DeBary, Florida: that Article VIII, Chapter 30 of the City Code of Ordinances is amended as follows, including amendment of Sections 30-260 through 30-271, inclusive, and the addition of new Sections 30-272 and 30-273 (words that are stricken-out are deletions; words that are underlined are additions):

Sec. 30.260. Definitions.

*Apply or application* means the physical deposit, placement, or release of fertilizer upon soil or turf.

*Applicator* means any person who applies fertilizer.

*Article* means chapter 30. article VIII of the DeBary Code of Ordinances, as amended, unless otherwise specified.

*Best management practices (BMPs)* means the practice or combination of practices based on location means, including economic and technological consideration, that minimize the services or other valuable consideration and who is required by law, ordinance, or regulation to obtain a Volusia County local business tax certificate.

*City approved best management practices training program means a program approved as such in writing by the manager of the city. The program shall include the most current version of the "Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida, June 2002," as revised, as well as the provisions of this article. The city will maintain a publicly available list of approved training programs.*

*Fertilizer* means any substance or mixture of substances, excluding pesticides, organic composts, and fertilizer derived from biosolids, that contains one or more recognized plant nutrients and promotes plant growth, or controls soil acidity or alkalinity, or provides other soil enrichment, or provides other corrective measures to the soil.

*Guaranteed analysis* means the percentage of plant nutrients or measures of neutralizing capability claimed to be present in a fertilizer.

*Golf course* means any public or private area of land designed and used exclusively for playing...
Golf related structures or features on residentially zoned private land shall not constitute a golf course.

Grasses-plants-used-in-a-manmade-landscape; usually not having a mature height over two feet tall.

Person means any person, natural or artificial, individual, firm, association, organization, partnership, business trust, corporation, company, agent, employee, or any other legal entity, districts, municipalities, and public agencies.

Slow release means nitrogen in a form which delays its availability for plant uptake and use for readily available, rapid or quick release product. This definition includes the terms "controlled release," "timed release," "slowly available," and "water insoluble."

Turf, sod, or lawn means a mat layer of monocotyledonous plants, including, but not limited to, Bahia, Bermuda, centipede, Paspalum, St. Augustine, and zoysia, or other groundcover.

Sec. 30-260. - Findings.

As a result of impairment to surface waters caused by excessive nutrients, and as a result of increasing levels of nitrogen in the surface and around water within the aquifers and springs, the city council hereby determines that the use of fertilizers creates a risk to contributing to adverse effects on surface and groundwater. Accordingly, the city council hereby finds that management measures contained in the most recent edition of the Florida-Friendly Best Management Practices or Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries are required.

Sec. 30-261. Applicability.

This article shall be applicable throughout all of the city.

Sec. 30-261. - Purpose and intent.

This article regulates the proper use of fertilizers by any applicator; requires proper training of commercial and institutional fertilizer applicators; establishes training and licensing requirements; establishes a prohibited application period; and specifies allowable fertilizer application rates and methods, fertilizer-free zones, low maintenance zones, and exemptions. This article requires the use of best management practices, which provide specific management guidelines to minimize negative secondary and cumulative environmental effects associated with the misuse of fertilizers. These secondary and cumulative effects have been observed in and on natural and constructed stormwater conveyances, rivers, creeks, canals, springs, lakes.
estuaries and other waterbodies. Collectively, these waterbodies are an asset critical to the environmental, recreational, cultural and economic well-being of city residents and the health of the public in general. Overgrowth of algae and vegetation hinder the effectiveness of flood attenuation provided by natural and constructed stormwater conveyances. Regulation of nutrients, including both nitrogen and phosphorus contained in fertilizer, will help improve and maintain water and habitat quality.

Sec. 30-262. Weather restrictions.

No fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus can be applied to turf during a period for which the National Weather Service has issued any of the following advisories for any portion of the city: a severe thunderstorm warning or watch, flood warning or watch, tropical storm warning or watch, hurricane warning or watch, or a three day cone of uncertainty.

Sec. 30-262. - Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth in this section words used in the singular shall include plural, and the plural, singular; words used in the present tense shall include future tense. The word "shall" is mandatory and not discretionary. The word "may" is permissive. Words not defined herein shall have the meaning given in other sections of this Code and if not therein, shall have the meaning given by common and ordinary use:

**Administrator** means the city manager, or an administrative official designated by the city manager to administer and enforce the provisions of this article.

**Application or apply** means the actual physical deposit of fertilizer to turf and/or landscape plants.

**Applicator** means any person who applies fertilizer on turf and/or landscape plants.

**Approved best management practices training program** means a training program approved pursuant to F.S. § 403.9338, or any more stringent requirements set forth in this article that includes the most current version of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida-Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources, by the Green Industries, as may be amended.

**Best management practices** means turf and landscape practices or a combination of practices based on research, field-testing, and expert review determined to be the most effective and practicable on-location means, including economic and technological considerations, for improving water quality, conserving water supplies and protecting natural resources.

**Code enforcement officer, official or inspector** means any designated employee or agent whose duty it is to enforce codes and ordinances.
Commercial fertilizer applicator, except as provided in F.S. 482.1562(9), means any person who applies fertilizer for payment or other consideration to property not owned by the person or firm applying the fertilizer or the employer of the applicator.

Fertilize means the act of applying fertilizer to turf, specialized turf, or landscape plants.

Fertilizer means any substance or mixture of substances that contains one or more recognized plant nutrients and promotes plant growth, or controls soil acidity or alkalinity, or provides other soil enrichment, or provides other corrective measures to the soil. Fertilizer does not include unmanipulated peat or compost which make no claims as described in the preceding sentence.

Guaranteed analysis means the percentage of plant nutrients or measures of neutralizing capability claimed to be present in a fertilizer.

Institutional fertilizer applicator means any person, other than a private, noncommercial or a commercial fertilizer applicator (unless such definitions also apply under the circumstances), that applies fertilizer for the purpose of maintaining turf and/or landscape plants. Institutional fertilizer applicators shall include, but shall not be limited to, owners, managers or employees of public lands, schools, parks, religious institutions, utilities, industrial or business sites and any residential properties maintained in condominium and/or common ownership.

Landscape plant means any native or exotic tree, shrub, or groundcover (excluding turf).

Low maintenance zone means an area a minimum of ten feet wide adjacent to watercourses which is planted and managed in order to minimize the need for fertilization, watering, mowing, etc.

Person means any natural person, business, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, association, club, organization, and/or any group of people acting as an organized entity.

Prohibited application period means the time period during which a flood watch or warning, or a tropical storm watch or warning, or a hurricane watch or warning is in effect for any portion of the city, issued by the National Weather Service, or if heavy rain, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization, as rainfall greater than or equal to two inches in a 24-hour period is likely.

Saturated soil means a soil in which the voids are filled with water. Saturation does not require flow. For the purposes of this article, soils shall be considered saturated if standing water is present or the pressure of a person standing on the soil causes the release of free water.
Slow release, controlled release, timed release, slowly available, or water insoluble nitrogen means nitrogen in a form which delays its availability for plant uptake and use after application, or which extends its availability to the plant longer than a reference rapid or quick-release product.

Turf; sod or lawn means a piece of grass-covered soil held together by the roots of the grass.

Sec. 30-263. Fertilizer content; application rate.

(a) All fertilizer shall be labeled in accordance with F.S. § 576.031 (2007), as it may be amended or superseded.

(4)-N fertilizer containing phosphorus shall be applied to turf unless a phosphorus deficiency in the soil underlying the turf is demonstrated by a soil analysis test performed by a state certified laboratory within one year of the phosphorus application, or a person who obtains such a soil analysis test showing a phosphorus deficiency and who wishes to apply phosphorus to turf shall mail a copy of the test results to the City of DeBary, Attention: City Manager, 16 Colomba Road, DeBary, Florida 32713 within 30 days of receipt of the mail. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, phosphorus shall not be applied to turf at a rate greater than one quarter of one pound of phosphorus per 1,000 square feet per application, not to exceed one half pound of phosphorus per 1,000 square feet per year.

(o)-N fertilizer containing nitrogen shall be applied to turf unless at least 50 percent of its that does not exceed one half of one pound of readily available nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of area, provided, however, that any application that exceeds one half of one pound of nitrogen shall conform to subsection (e).

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no fertilizer shall be applied to turf at a rate that exceeds the limits per plant species set forth below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Species/Nitrogen limit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahia grass: 2.1 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bermuda grass: 1.6 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centipede grass: 2.3 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StAugustine-grass: 2.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoysia grass: 3.6 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year.</td>
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Sec. 30-263. - Applicability.
This article shall apply and regulate any and all applicators of fertilizer and areas of application of fertilizer within the city, unless such applicator is specifically exempted by the terms of this article. This article shall be prospective only, and shall not impair any existing contracts.

Sec. 30-264. Fertilizer free zones.

course, or canal. Additionally, no fertilizer shall be applied within ten feet of any wetland as defined by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (chapter 62-310, Florida Administrative Code, as it may be amended or superseded).

(b) No fertilizer shall be deposited, washed, swept, or blown off intentionally or inadvertently onto any impervious surface, public right of way, public property, stormwater drain, ditch, conveyance, or water body.

(a) A low maintenance zone is strongly recommended though not required for all areas course or canal, or any wetland. Low maintenance zones should be planted and managed in

Sec. 30-264. - Timing of fertilizer application.

(b) No applicator shall apply fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus to turf and/or landscape plants during the prohibited application period, or to saturated soils.

(c) Fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall not be applied before seeding or sodding a site, and shall not be applied for the first 30 days after seeding or sodding, except when hydro-seeding for temporary or permanent erosion control in an emergency situation, or in accordance with an adopted stormwater pollution prevention plan for that site.

(d) Fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall not be applied to turf or landscape plants June 1 through September 30 of each year.

Sec. 30-265. Mode of application.

Broadcast spreaders applying fertilizers must be equipped with deflector shields positioned to deflect fertilizer from all impervious surfaces, rights of way, stormwater drains, ditches, and never water bodies.

Sec. 30-265. - Fertilizer-free zones.

Fertilizer shall not be applied within 15 feet of any pond, stream, watercourse, lake, canal, or wetland, as defined by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Rule 62-340, Florida Administrative Code, or from the top of a seawall. Newly planted turf and/or landscape plants may be fertilized in this zone only for a 60-day period beginning 30 days after planting if
needed to allow the plants to become well established. Caution shall be used to prevent direct deposition of nutrients into the water.

Sec. 30-266. Grass clippings and vegetative material/debris.

**Grass clippings and vegetative material/debris**

stormwater drain, ditch, conveyance, or water body.

Sec. 30-266. - Low maintenance zones.

A voluntary ten-foot low maintenance zone is strongly recommended, but not mandated, from any pond, stream, watercourse, lake, wetland or from the top of a seawall. A swale/berm system is recommended for installation at the landward edge of this low maintenance zone to capture and filter runoff. No mowed or cut vegetative material may be deposited or left remaining in this zone or deposited in the water. Care should be taken to prevent the over-spray of aquatic weed products in this zone.

Sec. 30-267. Exemptions.

(a) Section 30-266.5 of the Florida Administrative Code, as amended, provides that fertilizer shall not be applied to golf courses in excess of the provisions of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) BMPs for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses, January 2007, as FDEP updates or supersedes it from time to time.

(b) This article shall not apply to any private compost or manure applied to turf or landscape plants except as provided in subsection (a) for turf, or in the University of Florida/IFAS recommendations for landscape plants, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees and shrubs, unless a soil or tissue deficiency has been verified by an approved test.

(c) This article shall not apply to newly established turf for 60 days after installation.

Sec. 30-267. - Fertilizer content and application rates.

Fertilizers applied to turf shall be applied in accordance with requirements and directions provided by Rule 5E-1.003, Florida Administrative Code, "Fertilizer Label Requirements for Urban Turf, Sports Turf or Lawns."

Nitrogen or phosphorus fertilizer shall not be applied to turf or landscape plants except as provided in subsection (a) for turf, or in the University of Florida/IFAS recommendations for landscape plants, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees and shrubs, unless a soil or tissue deficiency has been verified by an approved test.
(d) Fertilizers containing phosphorus shall not be applied to turf, sod, lawns or landscape plants in the city. No fertilizer containing phosphorus shall be applied to turf, sod, lawns or landscape plants unless a soil or plant tissue deficiency is verified by a testing methodology approved by the University of Florida. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. If a deficiency is verified, the application of fertilizer containing phosphorus shall adhere to the rates and directions for the appropriate region of Florida, as adopted by Florida Administrative Code Rule. This subsection supersedes any inconsistent provisions in subsections (a) and (b) regarding phosphorus.

(d) Fertilizers containing nitrogen applied to turf or landscaping plants within the city shall contain no less than 50 percent slow release nitrogen per guaranteed analysis label. This subsection supersedes any inconsistent provisions in subsections (a) and (b) regarding nitrogen.

Sec. 30.268. Training requirements; proof of compliance.

(e) No commercial applicator shall cause fertilizer to be applied, except at his or her own residence, without proof of successful completion of a city-approved best management practices training program, unless he or she is under the direct physical supervision of a person who has proof of successful completion of such a training program.

(f) Each commercial applicator shall ensure that each applicator he or she employs has successfully completed a city-approved best-management-practices training program within 90 days of initial employment and shall ensure that prior to the successful completion of such program, each employee applicator shall work under the direct physical supervision of a person who has successfully completed said program.

Sec. 3. Application practices.

(g) Spreader deflector shields are required when fertilizing via rotary broadcast) spreaders. Deflectors must be positioned such that fertilizer granules are deflected away from all impervious surfaces, fertilizer-free zones and waterbodies, including wetlands.

(h) Fertilizer shall not be applied, spilled, or otherwise deposited on any impervious surfaces.

(i) Any fertilizer applied, spilled, or deposited, either intentionally or accidentally, on any impervious surface shall be immediately and completely removed to the greatest extent practicable.

(j) Fertilizer released on an impervious surface must be immediately contained and either legally applied to turf or any other legal site, or returned to the original or other appropriate container.
(e) In no case shall fertilizer be washed, swept, or blown off impervious surfaces into stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, or waterbodies.

Sec. 30-269. Commercial applicators.

PFier-te-obtain-a--Velusia-County4eal-business-tax--eetifilete-fer--a-busineas-that-pf evides landscape services, each commercial applicator shall obtain a certificate of completion from a city approved best management practices training program. Commercial applicators who hold a Volusia County local business tax certificate as of the effective date of this article shall provide such certificate of completion to the City of DeBary City Manager's office by October 31, 2009.

Sec. 30-269. - Management of grass clippings and vegetative matter.

In no case shall grass clippings, vegetative material, and/or vegetative debris be washed, swept, or blown off into stormwater drains, ditches conveyances, waterbodies, wetlands, or sidewalks or roadways. Any material that is accidentally so deposited shall be immediately removed to the maximum extent practicable.

Sec. 30-270. Variances.

(-a)-Adl-r-equests-ferr-avarianeesf-FEm4he-r-equipements-ef-this-aftiee-shall-be-made-ifk-wr-iting to the City Council of DeBary. The city council may require the applicant's variance request to provide such information as necessary to carry out the purpose of this article. The city council may approve, approve with conditions or deny requests for variances. A variance may be granted if strict application of the city fertilizer management ordinance would lead to unreasonable or unfair results in particular instances, provided that the applicant demonstrates

on the applicant requesting the variance or those served by the applicant.

(b) Variances may be issued by the city council etily upon satisfaction of the following:

(1) A showing of good and sufficient cause by the applicant and that the cause is not self imPese&and

(2) A determination by the city council that the variance is the minimum necessary to afford relief; and

(3) A determination by the city council that failure to grant the variance would result in a property; and
A determination by the city council that the granting of the variance will not result in threats to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the city or conflict with existing laws.

Sec. 30-270. - Exemptions.

This article shall not apply to:

(1) Bona fide farm operations as defined in F.S. 823.14, "Florida Right to Farm Act."

(2) Other properties not subject to or covered under subsection (a) that have pastures used for grazing livestock.

(3) Any lands used for bona fide scientific research, including, but not limited to, research on the effects of fertilizer use on stormwater, water quality, agronomics, or horticulture.

(4) Golf courses, athletic fields and turf managed for active recreation, whose owners implement best management practices as described in Rule 5E-1.003(2)(d). Florida Administrative Code "Fertilizers Labeled, for Sports Turf at Golf Courses Parks and Athletic Fields."

Sec. 30-271. Enforcement and penalty.

Any person who violates any provision of this article, or any provision of any resolution enacted pursuant to the authority of this article, shall be held liable for all costs of any resolution enacted pursuant to the authority of this article including, but not limited to, attorney's fees.

Sec. 30-271. - Training.

(a) All commercial and institutional fertilizer applicators shall abide by and successfully complete the six-hour training program in the Florida-Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources, by the Green Industries offered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the University of Florida/IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscapes Program, or an approved equivalent.
fb) Private, noncommercial applicators are encouraged to follow the recommendations of the University of Florida/IFAS Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program when applying fertilizers.

Sec. 30-272. - Licensing of commercial fertilizer applicators.

(k) By September 30, 2017, all commercial fertilizer applicators shall abide by and successfully complete training and continuing education requirements in the Florida-Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries, offered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the University of Florida/IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscapes Program, or an approved equivalent program. Commercial fertilizer applicators shall provide proof of completion of the program prior to obtaining a new local business tax receipt for any category of occupation which may apply any fertilizer to turf and/or landscape plants. Commercial fertilizer applicators with an existing local business tax receipt for any category of occupation which may apply any fertilizer to turf and/or landscape plants shall provide proof of completion of the program within 30 days after completing the program and prior to September 30, 2017.

(l) After September 30, 2017, all commercial fertilizer applicators shall have and carry in their possession at all times when applying fertilizer, evidence of certification by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as a commercial fertilizer applicator pursuant to Rule 5E-14.117(18), Florida Administrative Code.

(m) By September 30, 2017, all businesses applying fertilizer to turf and/or landscape plants (including, but not limited to, residential lawns, commercial properties, and multifamily and condominium properties) shall ensure that at least one employee has a Florida-Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries training certificate. Business owners for any category of occupation which may apply any fertilizer to turf and/or landscape plants shall provide proof of completion of the program by at least one employee prior to the business owner obtaining a new local business tax receipt. Business owners for any category of occupation which may apply any fertilizer to turf and/or landscape plants with an existing local business tax receipt shall provide proof of completion of the program by at least one employee within 30 days after completing the program and prior to September 30, 2017.

Sec. 30-273. — Enforcement.

This article may be enforced in accordance with Section 1-15, Chapter 1 of this Code; Division 3, Article III, Chapter 2 of this Code; or using any other applicable enforcement mechanism or remedy available under this Code or at law. Violation of any provision of this article shall constitute a Class II violation under Section 2-151 of this Code. An person violating this article may be held liable for all costs incurred by the City in connection with enforcing this article including, but not limited to, attorney's fees.
SECTION 3. Codification. This Ordinance shall be incorporated into the DeBary City Code. Any section, paragraph number, letter and/or any heading may be changed or modified as necessary to effectuate the foregoing. Grammatical, typographical and similar or like errors may be corrected, and additions, alterations, and omissions not affecting the construction or meaning of this ordinance and the City Code may be freely made.

SECTION 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, word or provision of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, whether for substantive, procedural, or any other reason, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 5. Conflicts. In the event of a conflict or conflicts between this Ordinance and any other ordinance or provision of law, this Ordinance controls to the extent of the conflict, as allowable under the law.

SECTION 6. Effective date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the City Council of the City of DeBary, Florida.

FIRST READING: May 3, 2017
SECOND READING: June 7, 2017

ADOPTED this 7th day of June, 2017, by the City Council of the City of DeBary, Florida.

ATTEST:
Warren Graham, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF DEBARY
Bob Garcia, Mayor/Commissioner