

From: Robert Daniels
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 6:28 PM
To: Edward Lavallee <ELavallee@Venicegov.com>; Lori Stelzer <LStelzer@Venicegov.com>
Cc: Barbara Quinn <Tobaquinn@aol.com>; Robert Daniels <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>; Main Street Director Erin Silk <erin@VeniceMainStreet.com>; Peter Richard <prichardwonderfull@gmail.com>; Blair Post <blair@contemporaryhearing.com>
Subject: Fwd: Non-profits and City of Venice events

Please place this issue on the next council agenda to discuss.
Council has received many complaints about this event and the donation of funds to another city.

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From: "robin parsons" <robinparsons@msn.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 13, 2016 at 5:06 PM -0400
Subject: Non-profits and City of Venice events
To: "John Holic" <JHolic@Venicegov.com>
Cc: "Kit McKeon" <KMCKEON@venicegov.com>, "Richard Cautero" <RCautero@Venicegov.com>, "Robert Daniels" <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>, "Fred Fraize" <FFraize@Venicegov.com>, "Jeanette Gates" <JGates@Venicegov.com>, "Deborah Anderson" <DAnderson@Venicegov.com>, "Bobbi Ears" <911catnip@gmail.com>, "Marion Lutz" <m.033063@gmail.com>, "Ears Animalrescue" <englewoodanimalrescue@yahoo.com>

Dear Mayor Holic,

Recently Roger Clark notified me that there might be a discussion at tomorrow's council meeting regarding the use of City of Venice non-profits for events in the City boundaries. He mentioned that it may fall under the Mayor's Report but it doesn't seem that there is any information in the agenda covering your talking points.

Roger also mentioned that he would be out this week so I'm not able to follow up to verify anything. I am also out of town and won't be able to attend the meeting to make any comments should the topic come up. I was hoping I might be able to provide some over site and explanation that may make you a bit more comfortable with the non-profit I currently use for the Venice Brew Bash.

One of the challenges coordinating this event is the sheer amount of man power needed in volunteers. As you are aware, the first 3 years of the event we partnered with a City of Venice based non-profit. Because this event is so labor intensive, I ask that our partners provide a certain level of assistance to put the event on via assistance with sponsorship sales, ticket sales and volunteer support. However they simply lacked the man-power to provide the true level of support needed for the event.

When this was realized, I reached out to other Venice based non-profits and they too were either not interested or unable to provide the support needed. A chance meeting connected me with E.A.R.S. Animal Rescue and they were eager to partner with the event.

E.A.R.S. is a 501c3 non-profit, no-kill, animal rescue and sanctuary. They are dedicated to helping homeless dogs and cats find their "forever homes" and live the lives they so truly deserve.

Although they are located in Englewood, they also service the Sarasota and Charlotte County areas. Currently they are the only No-Kill Dog and Cat rescue serving Englewood, Venice and Pt. Charlotte. They take surrenders animals from the Venice area, adopt out to Venice residents and have foster homes in the Venice area. They also facilitate adoption events at the local Venice Pet Supermarket. Not only does E.A.R.S. service the Venice community as a non-profit their organization and volunteers are patrons of Venice businesses.

E.A.R.S. is a volunteer based organization of animal lovers with a desire to help precious pets in need. They work from the heart and receive an abundance of love and gratitude from the animals they save. They are not funded by any state or governmental agencies, they survive solely on the generous people from the communities they serve.

They run a thrift store which enables them to generate some of the much needed funds to care for our animals. Fundraising events, donations from local businesses / individuals and pet adoption fees allow them the ability to rescue more animals.

In 2015 they rescued and found homes for over 300 helpless animals, many with medical problems and facing euthanization; their vet bills alone exceeded \$46,000.00. I have copied their

Chairman of the Board Bobbi Austin, Shelter Director Marion Lutz and Teri Boyd
Communications Volunteer should you have any additional questions for them.

This was our second year working with E.A.R.S. and they have truly embraced the opportunity. They are an amazing group of passionate people and with their help we have been able to cut our volunteer needs substantially. Their volunteers go above and beyond and are willing to work the full length of the event cutting down our need for shifts. They are an extra set of eyes and ears and continually monitoring attendees for any issues that may need to be addressed. They help to keep the event running smoothly and deal with any issues on the fly. Whenever an extra hand is needed the word NO is not in their vocabulary. Somehow they even find the time to educate attendees about the services they provide and even put the extra effort in to hold a silent auction, 50/50 drawing and sell popcorn at the event to generate additional funds for their cause.

I can understand their being a concern about the benefiting non-profit being based in the City of Venice if the City is helping to offset event costs. However, the Venice Brew Bash has never asked for assistance to help offset the cost. In fact, the event actually is a revenue generator for the City of Venice via the services utilized for the event; City Police, City Public Works, City Public Waste, etc.

The event also brings a younger demographic to the downtown area which has always been a focus for the City. The event provides economic development via the additional traffic to local merchants. Many attendees come down prior to the event to visit the downtown shops and the farmers market, they visit restaurants after the event ends and return because they loved the area. I also met a gentleman this year who has been to all five years and fly's down from Boston to attend.

The Sarasota Ticket has named the event one of the biggest events in the area from May – November and they also named the Venice Brew Bash one of the Top 10 events of Memorial Day Weekend. ABC 7 – Suncoast View air a segment about the event and participated in a mini beer sampling on air and also promoted the event on their weekend segment. Sarasota Magazine showcased the event in their Kicking of the Summer article and Visit Sarasota County included the event in the 2016 Vacationer's Guide.

I hope you can agree that this event highlights the downtown area and is a great addition during the off season. It also contributed much needed funds to a local non profit. I hope I have alleviated any concerns regarding the benefits provided to the City of Venice via the

collaboration of Venice Brew Bash and E.A.R.S. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Robin Parsons
Founder – Venice Brew Bash

PLEASE

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