

CITY OF VENICE

Office of the Mayor

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor Ron Feinsod

RE: External Appearance of Vacant Buildings in Downtown

DATE: April 21, 2020

After the Red Tide disaster, some of our downtown merchants went out of business. The building owners have used several different methods of covering the windows at these locations. These include papering the windows, leaving the windows uncovered, and in one case, I have seen plywood covering a storefront. The paper coverings at one location has been peeling off the window and “hanging” part up/part down for months. In addition, flyers have been taped to the storefront window.

Under the current conditions, it seems likely that we will have more empty stores when we begin to re-open. I would like council to take a proactive step to insure that our downtown does not deteriorate. In order to avoid the possibility of having downtown take on the appearance of a failing town or an inner city look of boarded up buildings, I believe the City must adopt specific guidelines to insure visual appearance is maintained to the highest standards possible with a uniform set of standards for empty stores.

RF/mb