



CITY OF VENICE

FLORIDA

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Edward F. Lavalley
City Manager

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

November 25, 2020

Brennan Asplen III, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Sarasota County Schools
1900 Landings Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34231

Dear Dr. Asplen:

Thank you for inviting suggested discussion items for the upcoming Convocation of Governments, scheduled for January 15, 2021. I have shared your offering with our elected officials and staff members and for your consideration, I have summarized their collective response.

- Pandemic Impact – Local Coordination: The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on our entire governmental complex has caused us all to carefully examine our service delivery systems and modify protocols to meet necessary health and safety requirements. At the local government level, we have introduced virtual meeting options to enable us to maintain continuity of service while reducing health risks. Educational systems have introduced on-line and remote teaching models. Our elected officials would appreciate a briefing from the School District on the success of this educational model, including perceived levels of success, operational and fiscal challenges, and resultant strategies developed to maintain your high level of performance. While the school system operates under a countywide structure, we would be interested in measures that might be taken at the local level to support the school district in this time of challenge. We might begin with a sharing of concepts on our modified operational rules and service delivery protocols.
- Student Career Exploration Program: The City of Venice hosts an annual *Student Government Day*; a program that invites selected high school students to spend a day with local government officials. The program offers the opportunity for students to learn about the various professions and vocations that comprise our public service organization. The day culminates with students

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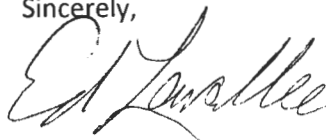
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actually conducting a city council meeting. The success of this program and expressed interest by students to learn more about career opportunities in local government has led to a suggestion by our staff to provide another offering to the school district. The City's Utility Department is one of our largest government sections in terms of employee size and operating budget. It incorporates many disciplines including engineering, GIS mapping, research, public relations, public outreach, various levels of management and leadership, budgeting, and numerous operations-level vocational functions. The City is offering to partner with the school district to create a short-term internship for students who may have an interest in a local government career. The model as conceived would engage a limited number of students in a short-term internship to explore vocational and professional career options by spending time in the Utility Systems operating facilities. The length of the internship, class size, scheduling and student selection criteria are among the details that would be coordinated with the School District and local high school.

- Service Delivery - Recycling: The City owns and operates its municipal solid waste and recycling program. The program is a self-supporting Enterprise Fund, operating exclusively on a structured fee system. As the School district has countywide jurisdiction, we expect that many of the services received are contracted on a countywide basis. If the District's fiscal operational model is flexible enough to offer local contract opportunities, the Venice Solid Waste and Recycling Department would be very much interested in submitting a proposal to deliver its high quality service. It is understood that countywide contracts may be preferred for simplicity or continuity. However, if there is an interest in exploring local government competitive options, our City would be pleased to participate.

While the topics cited here are of common interest, given the broad audience and variety of important contemporary issues expected for the upcoming Convocation of Governments, you may determine that some of our topics may not be suitable discussion items for that larger forum. If so, we would be pleased to discuss them with you further at a future date. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the 2021 convocation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Lavalley", written in a cursive style.

Edward Lavalley, City Manager
City of Venice, Florida