

PROJECT NARRATIVE

VENICE FIRE STATION NO.2

The subject of this application for a Site and Development is the construction of the Venice Fire Station No. 2 and development of a Public Safety campus. The fire station will be joining the Venice Police Public Safety Facility to form one campus. The proposed fire station is located along East Venice Avenue in Venice, Florida. The project is in section 09, township 39S, range 19E, Venice, Florida, within one parcel under Sarasota County Parcel ID #0412060001. The project is approximately 5.1 acres in size.

The proposed fire station consists of a one-story Fire Rescue Headquarters with apparatus bays, stair training tower, hardened storage building, an emergency signal, and the supporting roadway, utility, and stormwater management infrastructure to support the facility. An identification sign is proposed over the main entry on the East Venice Avenue side of the fire station. The existing monument sign at the main entrance to the current Police Safety facility will be modified to identify both Police and Fire Rescue Headquarters. An additional station identification number will be included on the training tower.

The tower height as defined by section 87.3.3.1 is 56.99 feet. This height is determined by the vertically measured distance as measured from 18" above the average crown of adjacent road, which is the greater of the FEMA first habitable floor, 18" above the Florida Department of Environmental Protection requirement for first habitable floor structural support, or 18" above the average adjacent crown of road elevation. The average crown of road elevation is 15.84 feet. Therefore, the basis for building height is elevation 17.34 feet. The tower is 56.33 feet high above the finished floor of 18.0 feet to the highest point of the roof. This equates to a building height of 56.99 feet, by code definition.

The training tower will be used by fire rescue staff to conduct training exercises on the suppression of different classes of fires, victim location and extraction, and other search and rescue techniques. The tower structure exceeds maximum height requirements for this zoning district. Therefore, a Height Exception request is required for this structure. As explained in the Decision Criteria response, both the Police Department building and the adjacent Church building have tall structures in their architecture. The Police Department has two prominent tower features that flank the main entry in the front of the building facing East Venice Avenue. The Church building has a high roof over the sanctuary with a cupola extending above that. It is estimated that the total height for the church exceeds 3 stories. Across East Venice Avenue from the Church is the Manor Care facility with 3 story structures lining the road frontage. The Emergency Services Facility training tower is a very small component of the overall building frontage. It is felt that the community benefit derived from the training tower warrants approval of a height exception on this site.