



THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: Edward Lavalley, City Manager **E-SIGN:**
FROM: James R. Clinch, Assistant City Manager
DEPARTMENT: City Manager

DATE: March 15, 2024

MEETING DATE: March 26, 2024

SUBJECT / TOPIC: Presentation with Action
The Lord-Higel House Mission and Goals

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Originally constructed in 1896, the Lord-Higel House represents the second oldest pioneer home still standing in Sarasota County. This historic structure was rescued from demolition by the City of Venice and relocated to its current location in 2005. Since that time, there has been extensive fundraising efforts and numerous public and private project phases to restore the home and the surrounding site. It is important to note that this extensive restoration process must meet the current requirements of the Florida Building Code including ADA restrooms, ADA access ramps, electrical, HVAC, and fire safety upgrades. The City of Venice owns this facility and is responsible for the future operations, maintenance, and public use planning for the facility.

The city has started the final phase of renovations, and a contractor is currently working to complete the interior build-out of the building budgeted in FY23 for \$300,000. The Lord-Higel house is planned to be ready to receive a Certificate of Occupancy and provide safe access to the public by late this summer. This presentation is intended to begin the visioning and planning discussion for the future public use of the facility. The City Manager's Office has collaborated with all the departments involved and several stakeholder groups to develop the following proposed goals for the future operation of the facility.

Lord-Higel House Future Use Goals:

- 1) Celebrating the History
- 2) Sustainability into the Future
- 3) Public Accessibility and Benefit
- 4) Engagement with Stakeholders

This presentation will review these goals in more detail and discuss the best opportunities to achieve these goals for the Lord-Higel House. City staff will be requesting Council endorsement of these goals and direction for the future use and operation of the Lord-Higel House facility.

SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN: Goal Six: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Proper Planning

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: 1) Endorsement of Mission and Goals; 2) Direct staff to solicit proposals and bring back a recommended adaptive reuse plan.

Yes N/A

Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance (required if for agenda posting)

City Attorney Reviewed/Approval

Risk Management Review

Finance Department Review/Approval

Funds Availability (account number): Fund 301 General Capital Projects Fund