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Reply to: *Venice*

October 15, 2015

The Honorable John W. Holic, Mayor
and Members of the City Council
401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, Florida 34285

Re: Contracted Fire Services

Dear Mayor Holic and Council Members:

Prior to drafting an ordinance to call for an election to amend the City Charter with respect to the Manager's appointment of a Fire Chief, I thought it prudent to share with you some options for that amendment for your consideration. One way to address the Charter changes is set forth below:

Sec. 4.04. - Powers and duties of the city manager.

The city manager shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) Appointment, suspension and removal. Appoint and when deemed necessary for the good of the city, suspend or remove city employees and appointive administrative officers under the city manager's jurisdiction as provided for by City Charter, ordinance, resolution, personnel rules of the city, or by general law. The city manager may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to the manager's direction and supervision to exercise these powers with respect to subordinates in that officer's department, office or agency. Provided, however, the city manager shall, with advice and consent of the city council, appoint the finance director, police chief and fire chief or those officers whose duties generally embrace those of the office of finance director, police chief and fire chief in the event of consolidation of said offices.

Lakewood Ranch
6853 Energy Court
Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34240

Venice
217 Nassau Street S.
Venice, Florida 34285

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However, the city manager may suspend or remove the finance director, police chief and fire chief or those officers whose duties generally embrace those offices upon any staff reorganization. Alternatively, the city council may enter into an agreement with another local government to provide the city with finance, police or fire services.

The change could be limited to just fire services and not include the other two departments if that is the direction of Council. There may be other methods as well.

By copy of this letter to our City Clerk, I'm asking that this letter be placed on the appropriate agenda for Council consideration and discussion. I am pleased to answer any questions that you might have.

Respectfully,



David P. Persson

DPP/dgb

cc: Edward Lavalley, City Manager
Lori Stelzer, City Clerk