

## **2018 CITY OF VENICE STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The City of Venice wishes to express its gratitude to the Florida State Legislature for its work to provide the best and highest quality of life for residents of the state and especially, residents of Venice. We are greatly thankful for previous support of beach renourishment, transportation and Utilities projects and other actions for the benefit of our citizens. The following needs have been identified by Venice City Council. The City of Venice requests your support with these important projects:

### **1. Beach Renourishment**

Renourishing the beach serves to protect the safety and welfare of this Florida coastal community. Renourishment is important for storm protection, marine turtle nesting and as a tourism/economic driver. The City of Venice appreciates the funding that has been received to date, including FY18 monitoring that is currently funded under an active state grant agreement.

The City requests ongoing legislative support for the statewide beach renourishment and inlet management program, as this will provide funding availability as we move toward our next renourishment event in 2025. The City also continues to support the state as it seeks new methods to resolve erosion issues.

### **2. Appropriations for Road and ADA Upgrades**

The City of Venice is grateful for the \$1.3 million grant received in FY17 to support the first-year funding of a downtown road reconstruction and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility upgrade project. With local funding added, the first year of the downtown project will total more than \$4 million.

The City also appreciates the diligent effort by the Legislature to include \$1 million toward the second-year \$8 million project in the FY18 state budget, although it unfortunately did not survive the line-item veto. The City has awarded \$6.5 million to complete year two in infrastructure improvements.

The City respectfully requests funding in FY19 for year three of this critical three-year project. With legislative support of \$1 million for year three, the City will add an additional \$3 million in local funding to continue critical infrastructure upgrades, including rehabilitation of a structurally deficient bridge on Capri Isles Blvd.

### **3. Utility Infrastructure**

The City of Venice appreciates local Representatives' and the Legislature's support in our past appropriation of \$500,000 for the City's Venice Eastgate Water Distribution Improvement and Relocation Phase 1 project in FY16-17. The City also appreciates the support for our appropriation request in FY17-18 for our Water Main Replacement Program Phase 5 project; unfortunately this project was vetoed.

The City will be requesting support for two critical water projects in FY18-19. The first priority will be the Venice Eastgate Water Distribution Improvement and Relocation project Phase 2, and the second priority will be Phase 6 of our Water Main Replacement Program.

The two projects are to replace old cast iron 2"-4" pipelines from the 1950s that are heavily tuberculated. The new mains and service lines will be PVC pipelines that are resistant to the tuberculation process and will be larger to provide increased fire flow protection, improve domestic flow and pressure, and allow better accessibility as well as safer and less disruptive maintenance activities at a lower cost for the City to repair and maintain.

### **4. Increase Programs to Help Homeless, Mental Illness and Addiction, Especially for Veterans**

Because a lack of social services increases problems for society, especially for the homeless, those with mental illness, and those with alcohol and drug addictions, the Florida Legislature is encouraged to find means of helping those people – with a focus on veterans -- in need of services. Having homelessness in a community undermines the welfare of all residents.

Developing jobs, reinstating state mental health treatment facilities, and increasing opportunities for veterans and others to receive help to be able to become independent and self-sufficient are examples of ways to improve society now and in the future.

### **5. Support Home Rule**

The City of Venice requests the support of legislation that provides for Home Rule authority for cities and counties to make decisions that reflect the unique needs of the community and the wishes of its citizens.

A. It is imperative that the state **not impose unfunded mandates or reduce the revenue of local governments** by reducing taxes, such as the Communication Services Tax, that affect

local government.

B. Provide further **relief from the current requirements in funding 175 and 185 pension plans**, which can only be used for enhancements to existing contracts.

C. **Repeal of the state law that prohibits Home Rule in regard to new short-term rental** ordinances or amending existing ordinances.

## **6. Transportation Funding**

Support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning, provides equitable transportation funding among municipalities and counties, and provides opportunities for additional options for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.

## **7. Incentives for Alternative Energy and Energy Conservation and Efficiency Improvements**

The City of Venice encourages the Florida Legislature to continue to provide any incentives possible to encourage citizens to retrofit their homes and businesses with energy efficient and alternative energy products; and to provide funding opportunities for local governments to use alternative energy products.

## **8. No Oil or Gas Drilling**

The City of Venice is opposed to any drilling for gas or oil in the Gulf of Mexico within 10 miles of its shoreline. The beaches are a natural and economic asset to the area. The City of Venice and other local government entities have joined in a commitment to preserve the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area, which such drilling activities threaten.

## **9. The City of Venice Supports the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Priorities for 2018.**

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