



MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: Edward Lavallee, City Manager **E-SIGN:**

FROM: Edward Lavallee, City Manager

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

DATE: July 6, 2022

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, July 12, 2022

SUBJECT / TOPIC: Purchase of Land for Relocation of Fire Station #52

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 2022 City of Venice Strategic Planning Session was held on March 3rd, at Village On The Isle. One of the primary purposes of the annual meeting is to establish priorities for future capital projects.

At that session, the City staff presented a list of prospective capital projects with associated time-lines, estimated implementation costs and related operational benefits. From the discussion of the projects presented by staff, the Council defined the order of priority for the next fiscal year, and subsequent five years.

A top priority for fiscal 2023 is the acquisition of land for relocation of Fire Station #52. That facility functions as the Venice Fire Department (VFD) headquarters as well as one of three deployment facilities for fire and rescue services. The currently facility is poorly situated for effective response capability and is located in a flood zone. The building is outdated and inefficient. Among significant operational changes in the Fire Department since the facility was built is the recent takeover by VFD of rescue services that was formerly provided by Sarasota County. The incorporation of the rescue service into the VFD operational plan provides for greater integration of personnel, cross training, scheduling, and career development. A more contemporary fire & rescue facility would enhance the Department's overall service capability and personnel management.

The effective relocation of a public safety facility requires several important steps. In the case of fire/rescue service, the geographic positioning of each facility is critical. Venice operates three fire stations. The positioning of each should be based on service demand, response capability, and the proximity of each station to the others.

Following the Strategic Planning session, in light of the current economic trends and related high demands for property by area developers, the staff initiated an immediate search for desirable sites for the relocation of VFD #52. As a result of that effort, an ideal site was located on East Venice Avenue, next to the Venice Police Department. The proximity of the site, next to the police station provides unique benefits. The City's primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is located in the police facility. The Fire Chief is the City's EOC Director. Both Departments are

leaders in the City's response to emergencies. The location offers opportunities to share resources, collaborate in training, and share infrastructure needs. Most importantly, this location is ideal in terms of geographic positioning for fire/ rescue response. The site approximates five (5) acres; ideal for current and future needs of the Fire Department.

Following the City's procurement rules, the staff obtained two independent property appraisals for the five acres. The asking price for the property is \$1,750,000. The asking price approximates the contemporary sales price of properties in our area, of \$350,000 per acre. Funding for the purchase of the property is planned from the One-cent Sales Tax account. Subsequent to purchase of the property, the process for annexation, surveying of the site, and rezoning, will also be supported from the One-cent Sales Tax fund.

The charge to the staff from the City Council to pursue a site for relocation of the Fire Station #52 was theoretically a task for Fiscal 2023. However, due to accelerated land transactions in a very active property development environment, staff has taken an aggressive approach to meeting the goal of relocation the VFD headquarters while desirable properties are still available. The location of the proposed site for VFD #52 is ideal for fire/rescue response purposes. Proximity to the Police Department and EOC is a major benefit. The size and configuration of the property suits the immediate and future needs of the fire service in Venice. Council approval of the purchase of property for relocation of Fire Station #52, as described herein, is recommended.

SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN: Goal Four: Upgrade and Maintain City Infrastructure and Facilities

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: For Council Adoption by Motion

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Yes	N/A	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance <small>(required if for agenda posting)</small>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	City Attorney Reviewed/Approval
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Management Review
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance Department Review/Approval
		Funds Availability (account number): Click or tap here to enter text.

Original(s) attached: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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