

**City of Venice
Building Department**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 1, 2014

TO: City Council, Mayor Holic and City Manager, Ed Lavallee

FROM: Vince LaPorta, Building & Code Enforcement Director 

SUBJECT: Proposed Budget Amendment

The Building Department has seen a steady increase in building permits since 2010. In fact, last year the department issued a record breaking 4000 permits. This year we are on track for another record breaking year having issued 302 more permits over the same period as last year. In addition, there are five future residential and commercial developments by Neal Communities as well as an increased projection of residential units by WCI and DR Horton.

Also, the number of inspections and plan reviews have increased from 8,256 inspections and 1,768 plan reviews respectfully in 2010 to 15,551 inspections and 2,488 plan reviews in 2013, with no increase in staffing levels. This has put a strain on our Partnering 4 Success initiative in doing timely and quality inspections and plan reviews for our customers. As a result, the department is in need of three new positions.

The Department's Special Revenue Fund will support the three full time positions of Deputy Building Official, Multi Trade Inspector and Administrative/Customer Service Support Technician. The cost of increasing the work force has been analyzed by the Finance Department with a determination that the Building Department's revenues can support the additional staff. The cost for all three with benefits will be \$233K. An alternative to increasing the service delivery capacity would be to outsource the increased workload. This option has been used in the past. The cost for outsourcing of inspections will cost more than \$301K. The outsourcing of inspections does not provide the customer service we are used to providing at the City of Venice. Furthermore, we will still need to compensate for them by logging in their inspections and communicating with our contractors by cell phone or email.

The Building Department has very progressive years ahead not only with all the new construction going on but also new programs on the verge of starting like E-Plans Review, Go Solar Permitting and the enforcement of Expired Permits. All three will require additional staff time in marketing, training both internal and external customers as well as monitoring and administrating the process.

Please help the Department be the best in the State of Florida!

Thank you