



## MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

**THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER:** Edward Lavallee, City Manager 

**E-SIGN:**

**FROM:** Mayor Nick Pachota

**DEPARTMENT:** Office of The Mayor

**DATE:** June 22, 2023

**MEETING DATE:** June 27, 2023

**SUBJECT / TOPIC:** SRQ Resiliency Funding

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Sarasota County has announced that they are a recipient of a resiliency grant from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$201.5 million. Based on the program design, there are potential funding opportunities to address significant infrastructure deficiencies in Venice. While requests for grant funding are not being solicited at this time, it is important as a policy body to support initiatives that may address the City's critical infrastructure needs. The City Manager and staff have constructed a summary of resiliency and mitigation infrastructure projects that may be suitable for funding once the HUD grant program details are determined.

I am requesting Council support of initiatives our staff may take to identify and promote potential resiliency and mitigation projects through the HUD program. Attached is a communication from the City Manager addressing relevant infrastructure issues to be forwarded to Sarasota County as a function of this program.

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

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:** For Staff Direction by Council Consensus

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



June 22, 2023

Mr. Robert R. Lewis  
Director of Government Relations  
Sarasota County Government  
1660 Ringling Blvd.  
Sarasota, FL 34236

Re: Resilient SRQ

Dear Mr. Lewis:

As a follow up to your communication concerning the HUD Resiliency grant program, summarized below is a summary of resiliency and mitigation issues confronting the Venice community. Understanding that project applications are not being solicited at this time to address such issues, included is summary data related to actions taken in pursuit of solutions to the infrastructure challenges.

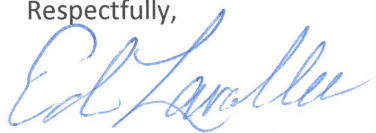
- **Venice Fire Department Headquarters:** The fire station is located in a flood plain and is thereby compromised during periods of bad weather. During Hurricane Ian, the facility had to be evacuated and all fire protection and rescue services and equipment relocated to another site. The relocation impacted service delivery and response time. Ironically, in the height of the storm, a major structure fire erupted in a manufactured home development within a short distance from the Fire Department headquarters. The City has initiated plans to relocate the fire station to a new site. The site has been purchased and design work on a new facility is underway. Until relocation occurs, the current site is at risk.
- **Venice Utilities Department Water Plant.** The City's water plant is located proximate to the fire department headquarters. It also resides in a flood plain and is proximate to the intracoastal waterway. As a critical public utility, it needs to be relocated to a safer, more functionally efficient site. Specialized equipment supporting the Utility as well as the facility itself needs to be moved to an environmentally safe reliable site. The City is actively pursuing a new location.
- **Housing Deficiency:** The City of Venice has a need for affordable housing. Employment of numerous businesses and industries are hampered by the absence of available workers.

The three infrastructure items listed are individually problematic, however there is a potential solution that impacts all three issues. Proximate to the flood plain area is a low-income housing complex. Designed in two phases Venetian Walks 1 and 11 provide much need residency for low-income residents. With proper mitigation planning, some of the area currently occupied by the City's fire and Utilities infrastructure could be redesigned, properly elevated, and converted to affordable housing. Support in the effective relocation of the municipal functions and support for an affordable housing design on the site would achieve a mitigation solution for critical municipal functions and provide support for much needed affordable housing.

**City Manager's Office**

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Respectfully,



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City Manager  
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