

CITY OF VENICE

401 W. Venice Avenue Venice, FL 34285

(941) 486-2626 Fax (941) 480-3031
Suncom: 516-4382

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

March 26, 2013

Mr. Randall Reid
County Administrator
Sarasota County
1660 Ringling Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34236

Dear Randy:

The City of Venice has been examining the provision of EMS services in the Venice area, and specifically analyzing whether it is in the community's best interest to seek a transition to become the local EMS service provider. This would of course imply that Venice would employ its own EMS staff and no longer utilize the county EMS employees for this service.

Under the current agreement county EMS employees assigned to the Venice Fire stations respond to service calls in the Venice area, a small number of which occur in unincorporated areas adjacent to the City limits. Presumably, for those calls answered by EMS personnel dispatched from the Venice Fire Department, the Venice site is the closest or most convenient dispatch point. In considering a transition to replace County EMS employees with local staff a question arises concerning those calls currently answered from Venice Fire stations to unincorporated sites outside of the Venice boundaries:

Would the coverage areas remain the same; that is would the new local EMS employees be expected to support the same geographic coverage area as the County employees now service?

Does a coverage map exist that delineates the geographic area for which each EMS deployment site is a first responder?

Finally, if the local EMS service providers maintained the same coverage areas would the City of Venice be entitled to the .66 mills of tax revenue commensurate with those areas served from the Venice EMS sites?

March 26, 2013
Mr. Randall Reid
Page -2-

Answers to the above questions will assist in determining the best professional and fiscally efficient response model for the vital EMS service.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed', is positioned below the text 'Best Regards,'.

Edward F. Lavalley
City Manager

Cc: Mayor & City Council
Charter Officers
James Warman, Fire Chief
Jeff Snyder, Finance Director



SARASOTA COUNTY

"Dedicated to Quality Service"

April 15, 2013

Edward F. Lavallee
City Manager
City of Venice
401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285

Dear Ed:

In response to your March 26 letter and questions regarding EMS services within the City of Venice, I hope the following will be helpful.

In reviewing our EMS response matrix, we have confirmed that two of the Sarasota County EMS units assigned to Venice Fire Stations currently have first response assignments to areas outside of the Venice City limits. These County EMS units are Rescue 52, North Grove Street, and Rescue 53, East Laurel Road. Rescue 52 and Rescue 53 respond to areas outside of the Venice City limits in the Nokomis/Laurel region. This is consistent with the county-wide response system to send the closest responder unit to the scene of an emergency. The reverse occurs when County EMS units assigned to the Venice Fire Stations are committed and County EMS units from outside the city limits respond into the city.

These response area boundaries are created to ensure the most efficient and effective response to our citizens. Maintaining that primacy of purpose, it would be reasonable to anticipate that, if a change in EMS providers were to take place, special attention would be paid to ensure appropriate emergency responses.

A map showing the first response assignment areas currently covered by Sarasota County EMS units assigned to the Venice Fire Stations is enclosed.

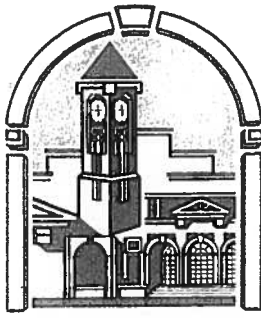
In the event of a change in EMS providers, further discussion and negotiations about funding and many other operational considerations would need to take place and formalized in an Interlocal Agreement.

Please let me know if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Randall H. Reid
County Administrator

RHR/mjt
Enclosures



CITY OF VENICE

401 W. Venice Avenue Venice, FL 34285

(941) 486-2626 Fax (941) 480-3031
Suncom: 516-4382

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

June 21, 2013

Mr. Randall Reid
County Administrator
Sarasota County
1660 Ringling Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34236

Dear Randy:

The City of Venice is currently engaged in development of the FY14 municipal Operating Budget. Part of that process involves researching new and expanded revenues to help support a strained local economy. As you are aware, the City has been analyzing aspects of the public safety function; including the provision of EMS services.

By virtue of an MSTU agreement the City enjoys a collaborative relationship with the County in the provision of emergency medical and rescue service. As a feature of that service, when County rescue units are dispatched to emergency calls they are often accompanied by a local fire truck. The second vehicle transports additional local personnel and equipment that may be needed in the event the rescue call requires advanced life support (ALS) service. A review of rescue runs over the past three years indicates that a local fire apparatus accompanies the County rescue vehicle, approximately, 1831 times per year. The cost of that service to the local Fire Department budget is calculated to be \$177.00 per hour. This cost is derived by using local personnel costs and adding established FEMA guidelines for fire vehicle cost. Given that the average EMS run takes thirty (30) minutes, the operating cost of local resources in support of the EMS function approximates \$162,044 per year.

For more than a year, the Venice City Council has been examining methods of sustaining municipal fire and rescue service. In a recent discussion and in review of the second-vehicle operating cost cited above, they determined that it would be reasonable to request a financial subsidy from the County to offset the impact on the local Fire

Mr. Randall Reid
Page -2-
June 21, 2013

Department budget. In consideration of the shared responsibility for provision of the critical EMS function, on behalf of the Venice City Council, I am requesting your consideration for a financial subsidy to offset the City's cost in the delivery of this service.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Lavalley', written in a cursive style.

Edward F. Lavalley
City Manager

Cc: Mayor & City Council
Charter Officers
James Warman, Fire Chief
Jeff Snyder, Finance Director



SARASOTA COUNTY

"Dedicated to Quality Service"

Lori

July 9, 2013

Edward F. Lavallee
City Manager
City of Venice
401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285

Dear Mr. Lavallee:

I received your letter of June 21, 2013, requesting a financial subsidy to the Venice Fire Department for providing assistance to our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) crews when responding to the citizens of Venice.

I am very concerned about the city's request as the current system is based on a cooperative approach that doesn't require each agency to audit the costs to each other on a call by call basis. That type of cost component approach can negatively change the way we consider our responses and mutual aid throughout the system. The county is not interested in trying to break down the cost for a single component of the response system and debate over how much is owned to the city for a fragmented portion of those responses.

As opposed to jeopardizing our current collaborative effort to provide emergency service to the citizens of Venice, it may be in the city's best interest to assume responsibility for providing Fire and EMS service to your citizens. This would allow your Fire Department to realize any of the funding advantages and/or responsibilities associated with providing and charging for EMS. If this is your preference, the County Commission has indicated that they would support the change.

Continuing our current working relationship would be our preference. In the interest of highlighting some of the other considerations affecting our decision, I asked the Fire and Emergency Services Department to review your request and they have provided me some background information I want to share with you.

- Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department is the only agency that receives any type of subsidy and they are also the only agency not supported by taxes or assessments.
- Englewood Fire Department provides the same EMS response assistance and does not receive any subsidy.
- Current County EMS service expenses for the City of Venice area exceed revenue by approximately \$100,000
- A number of calls for service are cancelled before units arrive and they receive no transport reimbursement - approximately 100 of the 1831 calls referenced fall into that category.

Edward F. Lavallee
July 9, 2013
Page two

- 911 Call-taking and Dispatch Services for the Fire Department provided at no cost now (not including the proposed Law Enforcement proposal) exceed \$110,000 annually
- The value of providing radio infrastructure for the 178 radios the City of Venice operates exceeds \$40,000 annually
- The warehouse leased to the City at 440 East Venice Ave. is \$26,000 below market value
- Our EMS units responded with the Venice Fire Department to structure fire calls 28 times in 2012.
- Since Venice Fire Department discontinued their Hazardous Materials Team in 2011, the County's Special Operations Team has responded an average of 7 times per year within the City.

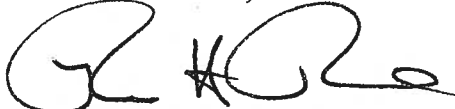
These expenditures that provide specific benefit to the citizens of the city of are being subsidized by the county taxpayers living outside of the city limits. I would be hard pressed to explain how we could justify the requested additional burden. Taking all of that into consideration, the county is not able to support your request for a financial subsidy.

Sarasota County has been providing EMS service to the citizens of Venice since 1977. We have enjoyed a very successful partnership with the city to provide an outstanding level of service. A systematic, cooperative Fire and EMS system is critical to providing our residents and visitors the highest level service possible.

I would like to discuss the potential for our Fire Departments to work together to explore ways we can help defray some costs without direct financial support, similar to the Dispatch Services and Radio system support we provide. Some ideas might involve training, equipment and supply purchasing and other ideas I'm confident we can discover.

I look forward to continuing to work together to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all citizens and visitors in Sarasota County.

In Public Service,



Randall H. Reid
County Administrator

RHR/mt

c: Sarasota County Commission
Thomas A. Harmer, Deputy County Administrator
Steve Botelho, Chief Financial Planning Officer
Mike Tobias, Sarasota County Fire Chief