



**TO: Honorable Mayor, City Council Members and
Ed Lavalley, MPA, City Manager**

FROM: Jeff Snyder, CPA, Finance Director

DATE: January 22, 2014

**SUBJECT: Sarasota County School Board Request for Performing Arts Center Contract
Extension**

Background:

The City of Venice entered into an agreement with Sarasota County School Board (Board) to financially support turning a new music building into a performing arts center for use by the community as well as students. The performing arts center was the number one requested capital project by our citizens during our One Cent Sales Tax referendum effort. The City has contributed \$7.5 million, to date, for the actual performing arts center.

In addition to the performing arts center support, the City of Venice committed to helping upgrade the existing music building for an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for use as a practice and storage area for our community organizations, e.g. Venice Symphony, Exsultate! (chorus), Venice Concert Band. The City also stated that we would only pay actual costs with the not to exceed limitation as a ceiling. As with many construction projects the completion dates are fluid and this work on the existing music building has not been completed on schedule. To date the City of Venice has contributed nearly \$69,000 of the agreed upon maximum however the work is not completed and the final costs are not known.

Action Requested:

The Board is asking that the City agree to amend the contract by extending it for one additional year. The Board's representatives have stated that this contract amendment will be the last. The Board's representative also stated that they believe the costs to complete the improvements will not require all of the money pledged.

Recommendation:

I recommend that the City Council approve the Board's request to extend the contract for an additional year, all other provisions remain intact. The performing arts center and the practice room is going to be a fantastic addition for our community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and/or concerns.