

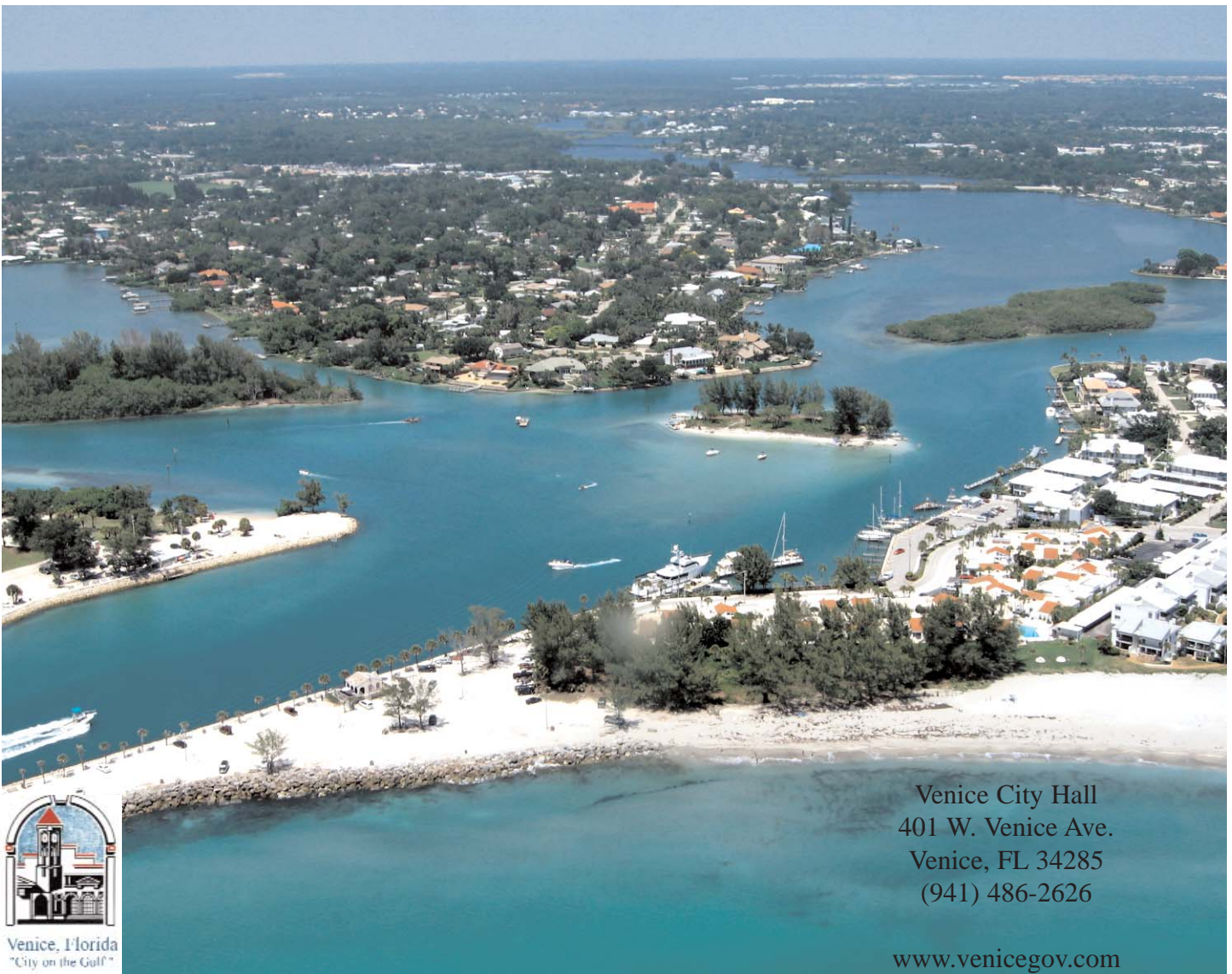
**Mayor
John Holic**

**Vice Mayor
Bob Daniels**

**Council Members
Jim Bennett
Emilio Carlesimo
Jeanette Gates
Kit McKeon
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**City Manager
Edward Lavallee**

2013 City of Venice LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES State of Florida



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CITY OF VENICE STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The City of Venice wishes to express its gratitude to the Florida State Legislative body for its work to provide the best and highest quality of life for residents of the state and especially, residents of Venice. We are greatly thankful for previous support of beach renourishment, transportation projects and other actions for the benefit of our citizens. The following needs have been identified by Venice City Council. The City of Venice requests your help with these important projects:

1. U.S. 41 Bypass improvement continues to be the area's highest transportation priority in order to complete the widening of the highway in this area and eliminate the bottleneck that makes travel inefficient.

- U.S. 41 Bypass is a four-lane arterial roadway serving the City of Venice and Sarasota County. On August 12, 2008, the Venice City Council adopted a resolution, approved by the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), recommending that the project be separated into three segments, with Phase I being the middle segment from Albee Farm Road to Gulf Coast Boulevard, including the intersection of Venice Avenue and U.S. 41 Bypass, as presented by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).



- In 2005 the road had an average daily traffic flow of 49,000 vehicles per day. It has become increasingly congested, with projections of over 54,300 vehicles per day in 2012 and 73,200 vehicles per day in 2032.

- The Bypass has been graded a service level "F," the worst operating level for roads according to FDOT.

- The only other major north-south roadway in this area is Interstate 75, which is frequently closed due to major accidents. These traffic events shift traffic onto U.S. 41 Bypass, which is already overloaded, compromising emergency/disaster response, hurricane evacuation and adversely affecting the economic vitality of the region.

- The roadway north and south of U.S. 41 Bypass has already been widened to six lanes.

- Funding has been obtained to widen U.S. 41 Bypass from four to six lanes to eliminate the bottleneck in the north-south transportation corridor. **It is critical that we stay on this path and complete this job that has been a priority in this community for more than two decades.**

- This road project remains one of the highest priorities of the City of Venice, Sarasota County, the Sarasota/Manatee MPO, the ManaSota League of Cities and the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce.

2. Beach Renourishment

The City of Venice is grateful for past support for beach renourishment and hopes to received continued support with state funding for the City's next scheduled beach renourishment project in 2015 to protect the economy and the health, safety and welfare of this Florida coastal community.



3. No Oil or Gas Drilling

The City of Venice is opposed to any drilling for gas or oil in the Gulf of Mexico within 10 miles of its shoreline. The beaches are a natural and economic asset to the area. The City of Venice and other local government entities have joined in a commitment to preserve the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area, which such drilling activities threaten.



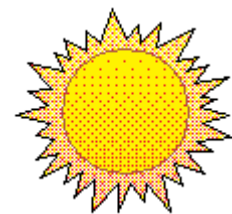
4. Property Tax and Insurance Reform

Support legislation which provides comprehensive and fair property tax and insurance reform while retaining the Home Rule authority of cities and counties to make decisions which reflect the unique needs of the local community and the wishes of its citizens.



5. Incentives for Alternative Energy and Energy Conservation and Efficiency Improvements

The City of Venice encourages the Florida Legislature to provide any incentives possible to encourage citizens to retrofit their homes and businesses with energy efficient and alternative energy products; and to provide funding opportunities for local governments to use alternative energy products.



6. Funding to expand the city's history museum and archives

The Venice Museum and Archives, located in a 1,500-square foot historic building, serves as the main repository for archaeological and historical materials related Venice and its surrounding communities. The museum is quickly running out of room to store its historic treasures and to display them for the public's education. With seed money of \$1 million donated by a city resident, and an economic feasibility study regarding the museum's expansion, VMA is now seeking public and private funds to make this a reality.



7. Shifting Runway 13-31 away from a residential neighborhood is the City's top priority to improve aviation and public safety at Venice Municipal Airport.

- The Airport Layout Plan calls for moving Runway 13-31 727 feet southeast to remove the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) from 24 single family homes and preserve the 5,000-foot primary runway.
- The installation of an Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS) will be required to maintain the Runway Safety Area (RSA) standards at the southeastern end of Runway 13-31.
- The project is estimated to cost \$12 million, of which \$600,000 is projected to be requested from the Florida Department of transportation (FDOT) through the Joint Automated Capital Improvement Program in FY 14-15.
- Once completed, the improvements will enhance land use compatibility surrounding the airport, remove 24 single family homes from the RPZ, an area meant to enhance safety and protect persons and property on the ground.
- In 2010 it was estimated to cost \$16 million to purchase the 24 homes located in that residential subdivision with deeded beach access.

