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2017

CITY OF VENICE

LEGISLATIVE

PRIORITIES

STATE OF FLORIDA



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2017 CITY OF VENICE STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The City of Venice wishes to express its gratitude to the Florida State Legislature 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. Beach Renourishment

The City of Venice is appreciative for past support for beach renourishment. We hope to receive continued support in 2017 with \$1 million in state funding for the City's required annual post-renourishment monitoring.

Renourishing the beach serves to protect the safety and welfare of this Florida coastal community, including adding economic drivers. The City also desires to partner with the state to seek new methods to resolve erosion issues.



2. Annual Appropriation for Road and ADA Upgrades

The City of Venice is grateful for a \$1.3 million grant to support the first-year funding of a downtown road reconstruction and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility upgrade project. With local funding added, the first year of the downtown project will total \$4 million.

The City looks forward to continued funding for years two and three of this critical three-year project. With legislative support of \$1.3 million each for project years two and three, the City will add an additional \$8 million in local funding to complete restoration of an estimated 79 lane miles of local public roads.



3. Utility Infrastructure

The City of Venice appreciates the \$500,000 allocated by the Legislature for the first phase of the Venice Eastgate Water Distribution Improvement and Relocation project. We request \$500,000 for phase two to complete the project to replace old pipelines from the 1950s with new mains and service lines. The new, larger pipelines will have better accessibility and safer and less disruptive maintenance activities at a lower cost for the City to repair and maintain.



4. Increase Programs to help Homeless, Mental Illness and Addiction

Because a lack of social services increases problems for society, especially for the homeless, those with mental illness, and those with alcohol and drug addictions, the Florida Legislature is encouraged to find means of helping those people in need of services. Having homelessness in a community undermines the welfare of all residents.

Developing jobs, reinstating state mental health treatment facilities, and increasing opportunities for people to receive help to be able to become independent and self-sufficient are examples of ways to improve society now and in the future.

5. Support Home Rule

The City of Venice requests the support of legislation that provides for Home Rule authority for cities and counties to make decisions that reflect the unique needs of the community and the wishes of its citizens.

A. It is imperative that the state **not impose unfunded mandates or reduce the revenue of local governments** by reducing taxes, such as the Communication Services Tax, that affect local government.

B. Provide further **relief from the current requirements in funding 175 and 185 pension plans**, which can only be used for enhancements to existing contracts.

C. **Repeal of the state law that prohibits Home Rule in regard to new short-term rental ordinances or amending existing ordinances.**



6. Transportation Funding

Support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning, provides equitable transportation funding among municipalities and counties, and provides opportunities for additional options for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.



7. Increase Opportunities for Historic Preservation

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 to 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.



8. Oppose Shifting Cost of Relocating Utilities

Oppose legislation that mandates local government to bear the cost of relocating utility equipment when the equipment is located within a public utility easement and needed to be relocated for transportation purposes or for non-transportation purposes, regardless of the location.

9. 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.



10. 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.



11. The City of Venice Supports the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Priorities for 2017.