

From: [Jim Lutiger](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: Venice theater
Date: Friday, June 23, 2023 7:45:20 AM

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My name is Jim Lutiger. I have been a snowbird resident and multiple home owner in Venice for approximately twenty years. We currently own and reside at 1995 SanSilvestro drive. The Venice theater has been an important part of our lives and one of the reasons we have settled in the community. It is an asset that needs to be preserved. I encourage the city council to approve the Theater's most recent request that is before the Council. Thank you. Jim Lutiger

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Amy-Jean Carlzon](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: In support of Venice fly loft height restriction exception
Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023 8:18:26 AM

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Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to you today in support of Venice Theatre's request for an exception to the fly loft height restriction in the reconstruction of the theater. As a resident and committed citizen of the arts, I believe that this exception is essential to the theater's ability to continue its mission of providing high-quality productions and educational opportunities to the community.

Venice Theatre is a vital cultural institution in our city. It has been providing theater, music, and educational programs to the community for over 70 years. The theater's productions are known for their high quality, and its educational programs have helped to inspire and educate thousands of young people.

The fly loft is an essential part of the theater's production capabilities. It allows the theater to stage more complex productions, with larger sets and more elaborate special effects. Without the fly loft, the theater would be limited in the types of productions it could offer.

The current height restriction on the fly loft was put in place to protect the neighboring homes from noise and light pollution. However, I believe that the benefits of the fly loft outweigh the potential negatives. The theater has a long history of being a good neighbor, and I am confident that it will continue to be so.

I urge you to grant Venice Theatre the exception it is requesting. By doing so, you will help to ensure that this important cultural institution can continue to thrive for many years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Amy-jean Carlzon

ajcarlzon@me.com

Full Time Resident and Supporter of Arts for Community

From: pedalpetal@comcast.net
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: Petition #23-26HE
Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023 10:15:01 AM

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As a full time resident of Venice, FL and a big supporter of Venice Theatre by attending many shows throughout the year and also working as a volunteer there, I fully support the petition above #23-26HE to allow the Fly Loft to the 70 foot request.

By doing this it will allow Venice Theatre to created bigger and better shows by moving around larger props. It will also add to the **safety** of all the folks that move around the props.

I appreciate your support by approving Petition #23-26HE for the good and quality of the performances of Venice Theatre. Venice Theatre is to Jewel to the City of Venice! Your YES vote will help continue to keep this theatre shining brightly!

Thank you for your consideration,
Stephanie (Sue) Pavlat 941-662-9402
2056 Mattamy Ct
Venice, FL 34292

From: [Sharon Rugh](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: Theatre
Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023 8:38:09 AM

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I am once again urging the council to approve the proposed height for the Venice Theatre

Thank you, Sharon Rugh
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [jack rabito](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: Venice Theater
Date: Sunday, June 25, 2023 7:32:17 AM

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This is a request for Venice City Council to grant Venice Theater its request to approve the extension of 70 ft for its new construction of its fly tower. This is a necessity to accommodate theater productions.

From: [Suzy Altman](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: I Support the Venice Theater
Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023 2:11:02 PM

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Please vote in favor of the change required to allow the Venice Theater to be rebuilt to the standard for performance and safety that this town is known for. The Theater represents our community from the smallest infant to those in their 90's & beyond.

Do all you can to help them rebuild

Sincerely,
Suzy Altman
23547 Waverly Cir, Venice, FL 34293

From: [Keith Munroe](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: Venice Theatre petition
Date: Sunday, June 25, 2023 4:49:13 PM

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Dear Sirs,

I am writing in Support of Venice Theatre's petition number 23-26HE. The theater is a tremendous asset to the community, and I trust you agree that their efforts to re-organize following the hurricane are heroic. Thank you for your consideration.

Keith Munroe 13311 Huerta Street in Venice, FL 34293.

Sent from my iPhone

From: dennisrehoboth@aol.com
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: VENICE THEATER
Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023 8:22:55 AM

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I HAVE WRITTEN BEFORE SEVERAL OTHER MEETINGS. VENICE THEATER IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS I CONTINUE TO RETURN TO VENICE.

I HAVE DEVELOPED A GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MURRAY AND LORI. THEY BROUGHT TWO PRODUCTIONS TO MY HOME TOWN. REHOBOTH BEACH, DELAWARE.

I HAVE HOUSE ACTORS DURING THE AACT WORLD FEST.

HOPEFULLY YOU WILL GRANT VARIANCES AND APPROVALS FOR THE THEATRE TO REBUILD AS THEY NEED TO AFTER THE HURRICANE AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE DOING THE WONDERFUL JOB .

THANK YOU

DENNIS CHUPELLA

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Toni Cone](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: FW: Fly Tower
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 2:33:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Please see the correspondence below received by Vice Mayor Boldt regarding Venice Theatre.

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Toni Cone

Records Manager/Deputy City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
City of Venice
401 W. Venice Ave
Venice, FL 34285
Tel: [941-882-7396](tel:941-882-7396)
Email: TCone@Venicefl.gov
Web: www.venicegov.com



Need to Report an Issue? SeeClickFix Venice Connect is available as an app for Android and iPhone. Select SeeClickFix from your app store on your device and choose Venice, Florida. There is also a link to the program on the city's website, www.venicegov.com, or go directly to SeeClickFix at <https://venice.seeclickfix.com/venice>

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From: Jim Boldt <jboldt@venicefl.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 2:30 PM
To: Toni Cone <TCone@Venicefl.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Fly Tower

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From: Frank Wright <fewsaw@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 1:15:29 PM

To: Jim Boldt <jboldt@venicefl.gov>

Subject: Fly Tower

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Jim -

After the Planning Department solemnly assured the public during the recent struggle over the LDRs that a height exception in the downtown historic district "had never been granted in the 30 years the ordinance has existed", Council is being asked to grant an exception to permit a building over **TWICE** the height of buildings in the Venice Avenue District.

The Venice Theater is asking to build a **75 foot** fly loft to handle the scenery for the theater, citing safety concerns of the previous structure, and an effort to employ "industry best practices." Neither can justify the height exception.

According to the Theater's Technical Director, John Anzules, the safety issue of the previous fly loft was it had no load rail on which weights to provide a counterweight to the scenery could be attached safely. The new structure will have a load rail, apparently without any increase in height necessary.

As for industry best practices, the AACT (American Association of Community Theaters) the industry standard for fly lofts is more than twice (or 2 1/2 times - see theatre crafts.com/pages/home/topics/rigging/counterweight-systems/) the "proscenium arch" - the height of the stage opening. The new plan for the stage is for an 18-foot arch, as opposed to the previous 16-foot arch. The industry standard thus would be for a 45-foot fly tower. This is consistent with the testimony of Mr. Anzules before the Planning Commission, who said the fly loft needed to be 40 feet high to hide scenery from the audience, plus 4 or 5 feet to hide the rail holding the scenery - yes, the same 45 feet the industry standard calls for. And slightly LESS than the 46.5 feet the Theater could rebuild under the grandfather provision. (I would urge you to review Mr. Anzules' testimony at Minute 50:00 at the video record of the Planning Commission.)

Whatever you decide the Theater "needs" for a fly loft, you need to take into account what a 75 foot monolith rising up in the middle of one, two and three-story buildings that adjoin would mean to the fabric of the historic downtown. The planned loft, 60 feet wide and 38 feet deep, is equivalent to a six-story condo with each floor consisting of 22-2400 sq ft. To suggest as does the applicant and staff the 75-foot tower is "consistent" with even taller condo towers hundreds of yards distant is pure

sophistry. The existing fly loft, at 46.5 feet, already dominates the downtown skyline for those approaching Venice over the KMI Bridge. A tower nearly 30 feet higher would exacerbate the situation. The historic building being altered here, first a garage, then a gymnasium and armory for KMI cadets, should not now be permitted to overwhelm even the San Marco Hotel of which it was once a part (now the KMI Building).

Rather than approve the exception, please put the burden where it belongs - on the applicant - to demonstrate **WHY it's NEEDED**. Require the applicant to return with more evidence.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Wright
Venice Resident

From: [HAROLD HEDLEY](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: Petition No 23-26HE
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 7:45:15 PM

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The Hedley family of Nokomis strongly supports Venice Theatre and its petition for the height extension of the fly loft.

Our son, Tim, as benefitted so much from his opportunity to take classes and appear on stage. Murray Chase, Becky Holahan and their huge corps of volunteers have done so much for Tim and his Pinky's Players fellow performers.

The Venice Theatre is a world class theatre right here in our neighborhood and certainly a reasonable request for this local gem, known nationally and internationally.

Hal and Luan Hedley

5508 Cantucci St.

Nokomis, FL 34275

halluan1@comcast.net

From: [ann Keohan](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: First Hearing for VT height Exception
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 4:32:14 PM

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Dear Mayor Pachota and Council Members,

My remarks to you today regarding the hearing tomorrow for the height exception for the Venice Theatre are in no way meant to be interpreted as opposition to providing what the theatre needs for a new fly tower. My concern is why 70' high? Nothing has been presented as evidence that 70' is necessary.

The Community Theatre Association of America gives the guideline for a fly tower as 2.5 times the height of the proscenium arch. According to the testimony of John Anzules, VT Technical Director and Stage Production Manager, the proscenium arch of the VT was 16' and now will be 18', so they need 45'.

(View his testimony at the PC meeting on 6/6/23.) He goes on to talk about safety and that no load rail was available before. So, say add another 10' and the tower would be 56'. There is no testimony about why a 70' exception is needed.

The approval of a height exception is a serious matter, rarely given. And we need to be aware of the fact that this building is an Historic structure.

To add a 6 story box to this building is not acceptable. Some compromise needs to be made to blend more successfully this fly tower with the architecture of this important Historic building.

I say yes, approve what the theatre needs, but not a 70' tower which according to the facts presented by John Anzulas, the industry standard is 2.5 times the Proscenium arch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Keohan
941-441-6867
Annkeohan43@gmail.com
120 Venice Palms Blvd, Venice, fl 34292

From: [Toni Cone](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: FW: Wait.,MORE FACTS NEEDED FROM THEATER
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 2:34:45 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Please see the correspondence below received by Vice Mayor Boldt regarding Venice Theatre.

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Toni Cone

Records Manager/Deputy City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
City of Venice
401 W. Venice Ave
Venice, FL 34285
Tel: [941-882-7396](tel:941-882-7396)
Email: TCone@Venicefl.gov
Web: www.venicegov.com



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From: Jim Boldt <jboldt@venicefl.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 2:31 PM
To: Toni Cone <TCone@Venicefl.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Wait.,MORE FACTS NEEDED FROM THEATER

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From: Nancy DeForge <ndeforge13@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 1:54:53 PM

To: Jim Boldt <jbaldt@venicefl.gov>; MitzieFiedler@venicefl.gov <MitzieFiedler@venicefl.gov>

Subject: Wait.,MORE FACTS NEEDED FROM THEATER

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Greetings:

I am a supporter of the Venice theater, yet I am also one who appreciates historical buildings in Venice.

BEFORE you vote on the height exception for Venice Theater, please get more technical FACTS from them as to WHY they NEED a fly loft up to 70 ft!!

The theater can save much needed money by using a fly loft that does not NEED to be that high, and still satisfies their needs.

Some Facts:

1, the arch of the stage will be increased from 16 ft to 18 ft.

2, the previous arch was served by a 46 ft loft.

3. There needs to be additional space at the top for storing weights for the pulley system.

4, According to the American Association of Community Theater, " the ideal fly loft should be more than twice the height of the arch."

5. A Maryland theater with a stage that is 34.9 wide and an arch 25 ft high, has a fly loft 52ft high.

In order to tweek the box architecture, there needs to be a parapet with some N. Mediterranean design to complement the tower already there.

If you are able, postpone a final vote until you get the technical FACTS to warrant this request. Or, at least COMPROMISE based on the FACTS you discover.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy DeForge

332 Laurel Hollow Dr Nokomis

From: [Dennis Neeser](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Chase Lori](#); [Watters Eric](#); [Kelly Michaels](#); [Mercedes Barcia](#); [Toni Cone](#); [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Subject: Venice Theatre Height Exception Pet No 23-26HE
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 8:56:51 AM

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ALL:

Please accept this mail not only in support of the above Height Exception Pet but as a reminder of the immense importance of keeping a viable Venice Theatre for downtown Venice merchants.

You may recall that I previously spoke to this Council about the Theatre's support for relocation outside of downtown and the destruction that would occur to a now vibrant restaurant and unique shopping industry that is downtown Venice back when the Council considered the sale of its former library site to the Theatre. As history would have it, that ownership has proved to be the lifeblood of the Theatre keeping it alive after hurricane Ian. Now it needs to complete its task of rebuilding the main stage to a standard fitting to survive a new long lived future for Venice.

Many like ourselves have chosen Venice, not Wellen Park, not North Port nor Sarasota for the proximity and access to the Theatre.

Please continue this support by approving the petition.

Thank you for your considerations.

Dennis & Ruthhane Neeser
600 Menendez St
Venice

9441-276-0610