



## MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

**THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER:** Edward Lavalley, City Manager      **E-SIGN:**  
**FROM:** James R. Clinch, PE, Assistant City Manager  
Paul Joyce, Master Police Officer, Special Operations Marine Unit  
**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

**DATE:** 02/28/2023

**MEETING DATE:** 03/14/2023

**SUBJECT / TOPIC:** Request Letter to Sarasota County to initiate the Anchorage Limitation Area process for Roberts Bay

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Historically, the City has been challenged with the proper control and regulation of live-aboard and derelict vessels anchoring within Roberts Bay, just outside of to the Higel Park boat ramp basin. The State regulations are very limited and this area is considered "Waters of the State," located within the jurisdictional boundaries of both the City of Venice and Sarasota County. This area has become very popular for anchoring vessels for an extended period and many times these vessels are abandoned in place. These vessels can become navigational hazards, create nuisances for the adjacent residential properties, and must be removed regularly at the City's expense. These vessels frequently break loose from their anchors and cause hazards during normal windy weather and storm events. During Hurricane Ian, five vessels were abandoned in this area and not properly secured for the incoming storm. These vessels broke loose and sunk, creating additional navigational and environmental hazards for our local waterways.

By virtue of Florida Statute 327.4108, a county may establish an *anchorage limitation area* adjacent to urban areas that have residential docking facilities and recreational boating traffic. This new state legislation would allow for Sarasota County to designate specific marine zones to be subject to additional regulations in regards to vessel anchoring. The implementation of an *anchorage limitation area* would prevent a person from anchoring a vessel for more than 45 consecutive days. This would effectively work to keep the area clear of long-term live aboard and derelict vessels, and instead encourage intermittent anchoring for visitors to the Venice area. It is expected that this program would reduce the occurrence of derelict vessels and improve the overall appearance of this waterway area. Additionally, this waterway is used regularly by the Venice Youth Boating Association for youth sailing activities and reducing these navigational hazards would be very beneficial to their operational safety.

City staff have been coordinating with Sarasota County, and local Marine Law Enforcement in order to pursue the establishment of anchorage limitation areas throughout the county. Sarasota County has requested a letter to the County Commission, stating the City's position and requesting any specific locations to be included in this potential countywide program.

**SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN:** Goal One: Keep Venice Beautiful and Eco-Friendly

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:** Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to Sarasota County Commission to request the pursuit of an Anchorage Limitation Area for Roberts Bay

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Yes    N/A

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance <small>(required if for agenda posting)</small> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | City Attorney Reviewed/Approval   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Risk Management Review  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Finance Department Review/Approval  |
|                                     |                                     | Funds Availability (account number): <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>   |

cc: