

CITY OF VENICE – SARASOTA COUNTY JOINT MEETING

March 11, 2025

A G E N D A

A public meeting of the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners and the Venice City Council to discuss issues of mutual interest is scheduled for May 16, 2025, to be held at the R.L. Anderson Building in south Venice. The Sarasota County Administrator and Venice City Manager collaborated to create the agenda defined below. The topics of discussion will be introduced as noted.

- **(Sarasota County) Wellfield Park Agreement:** Selected parks, beaches and recreation areas in Venice have been serviced and maintained by the County under an inter-local agreement for more than 30 years. Under this agreement, County staff and materials have been committed to maintaining the facilities to the benefit of the general public. The agreements have been in effect since 1991. The initial agreement expired in 2011, and was subsequently renewed for an additional term, scheduled to expire on October 1, 2026. City and County staff have been working together for several years on a new agreement to continue the relationship of joint responsibility for serving these vital public properties .A significant component of the planned update is the transition of ownership of Wellfield Part from the City to the County.
- **(City of Venice) Public Parking:** Among the most popular visiting sites for residents and visitors to Venice are the public beaches and waterfront parks. Venice Beach, North Brohard Beach, Maxine Barritt Park, Venice Dog Park, South Brohard Beach and Casperson Beach attract thousands of visitors and area residents. Parking challenges have necessitated the expansion of parking lots to accommodate the ever-growing patronage. Under a former agreement, the County granted permission to the City to create a gravel-base parking area along the east side of Harbor Drive, in the County's *Right-of-Way* (ROW). Under the agreement, the City assumes responsibility for maintenance and regulation of the parking space. The expanded space has been of significant benefit to beach patrons. As a result of recent hurricanes that have forced the closure of access and parking to certain beaches, including South Brohard and Casperson, and the continuing increase in patronage to the waterfront areas, additional parking is needed to relieve traffic congestion and provide adequate safe off-street vehicle parking. The County and City staff are working on an agreement wherein the City will assume the responsibility to create and maintain expanded off-street parking in the County's Harbor Drive ROW, replicating and expanding the agreement currently in effect. The expanded parking will target visitors to Casperson Beach, South Brohard Beach, Maxine Barritt Park and the Dog Park.
- **(Sarasota County) County Transit System:** The County provides public transit services throughout the Venice Area. The County will discuss performance and updates to this public transportation benefit.
- **Limited Anchorage:** In 2023, the Florida Legislature passed a Bill allowing counties to create limited anchorage areas within their respective jurisdictions to achieve specific objectives, including the establishment of enhanced safety zones for marine traffic. Under this law, in collaboration with City and County staff, Sarasota County undertook the task of establishing a limited anchorage area in Venice, proximate to public boating areas and launch sites. This initiative will provide a significant benefit to area boaters, and in particular to the Venice Youth Boating Association that operates a youth sailing program. The County's initiative results in the creation of a protected boating area that limits anchorage and increases the safety for marine travel in a defined area abutting Higel Park