



MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: Edward Lavalley, City Manager

FROM: Ricky L. Simpson, Director of Public Works and Asset Management

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

DATE: 03/07/2023

MEETING DATE: 03/14/2023

SUBJECT / TOPIC: Higel Park – Reef Pilot Project

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In order to successfully launch the reef pilot program at Higel Marine Park, the Public Works Department recently purchased ten (10) Mini Reefs from Ocean Habitats Inc. Once these systems are placed in the water, marine life will begin to live on, in and around them almost immediately. Following installation, these systems will support hundreds of fish, crabs and shrimp. Depending on the filter feeders living on the reef once the system fully develops it can filter over 30,000 gallons of water a day. The mini reefs will not only assist with improving water quality but also help improve the marine environment substantially. The overall goal of this project is to produce a thriving community of marine life around the docks.

Current Status:

- Expected arrival the week of March 7th, 2023.

Total Cost:

- \$3870.00 for ten (10) systems

Installation Plans:

- Install will be a collaborative effort between Public Works, Marine Division of VPD and Suncoast Reef Rovers organization.
- Install date is yet to be determined but a plan of action will be put in place once reef systems arrive.

Performance and Maintenance Plan:

- Visual quarterly inspections will take place to ensure the stability of the mini reef systems.
- Annual maintenance will be conducted. The maintenance will be in conjunction with Suncoast Reef Rovers to ensure the longevity, vitality and performance of this project.

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

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: For Discussion Only

Yes N/A

- Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance (required if for agenda posting)
 - City Attorney Reviewed/Approval
 - Risk Management Review
 - Finance Department Review/Approval
- Funds Availability (account number):