

**From:** [Michael Seaman](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Seaman](#)  
**Subject:** Venice City Council Members,  
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## Venice City Council Members,

My name is Michael Seaman, and I am a resident at 282 Mestre Place at the Venetian Golf and River Club. I am writing in **support** of the proposed pickleball courts at the Venetian Golf and River Club.

In short, I have been playing the sport for the last eight years and currently serve as the pickleball coordinator at my home community in Ohio. I was also involved in the planning phases of not only our three indoor courts but also our eight lighted courts. Initially we, too, had skeptics concerned about noise, parking, and the number of players. These concerns were addressed one by one, and there have been **no complaints** over the past several years. If anything, we could use even more courts as the sport continues to grow in popularity.

As for the pickleball need here at the VGRC, the answer is obvious. There is virtually nowhere to play. Yes, one can go to Foxworthy courts, but plan on waiting for long periods of time to get on a court. For other locations, players need to bring their own nets, which is not feasible for most people.

Virtually every community in the Venice area has its own courts. Even the new development by the baseball stadium will have seven of the nine communities with courts. The rumor that a park will be coming soon to North Venice with several courts appears to be just that, a rumor. Even if it comes to fruition, it will take years to happen. I also recently visited the Venice Woodlands complex. To my surprise, their four pickleball courts were located next to their recreation building on one side and less than 15 feet from the nearest houses. Yes, the houses did sell, and the folks love their pickleball as well as the location of the courts.

The pickleball committee is to be commended for being thorough in its plans to build the courts near the tennis complex. The Venice Planning Commission and Venice City Council advised the pickleball committee to move the pickleball courts to an amenity area. This certainly seems like an appropriate recommendation. I especially like the fact that fencing, wind and sound barrier screens, vegetation, and mounding will be installed to keep the sound at a minimum. I am also pleased that the basketball hoop will be relocated. I have gone out of my way to talk with as many residents here as possible. I have only spoken with two residents who oppose the proposed location. One had no reason while the other was someone working to defeat this location. The few residents who purchased their condos near the proposed courts knew that this was a recreational area. If I am not mistaken, the home prices were originally somewhat lower at these locations.

I urge the Venice City Council to vote **“Yes”** for pickleball just as they have done for other locations in Venice. Three courts will not be enough, but at least it is a start. Let's put this controversy behind us, and let's play pickleball soon.

Sincerely,

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