

VENICE LIBRARY RELOCATION

With the closing of the Venice Library, the County is pursuing a temporary library site while a permanent site for a new library is located and the new facility is constructed. This process is projected to take 3-4 years to complete. Criteria established to meet the temporary needs of the library include estimated space requirements approximating 10,000 square feet, parking, general public access, and ADA compliance. In consideration of serving the public interest and minimizing library service disruption, an additional important element is the time it will take to establish and occupy a temporary library site.

Among the local sites examined by County staff for a temporary library are publicly owned and privately owned facilities. Some are located on Venice Island, and some are east of the Intra-coastal Waterway. Among the publicly owned sites examined on the island are the Hamilton Condominium building and the Venice Community Center. County staff conveyed that they have also examined private properties including Fountain Square, a commercial parcel at the southern end of Business #41. Several off-island sites proximate to By-Pass #41 and on East Venice Avenue have also been examined by the County.

On February 2, 2016, County staff briefed City staff on the sites examined by the County. In consideration of the prospect of using the Venice Community Center (VCC) the County staff has provided a schedule of activities that took place at the VCC over the past 12 months (attached). A brief review of the schedule obviates the active use of that facility. County staff has conducted physical examinations of the Hamilton complex to assess its potential as a temporary relocation site. At this point, the County staff is interested in pursuing a lease agreement with the City for use of the Hamilton complex. The lease period is projected to be for three to four years. A number of practical issues need to be addressed as a contingency to this agreement. The facility will require physical modification and upgrading to meet contemporary library needs. In this regard, the City and County staff would analyze required tasks and determine responsibility for specific improvements.

The purpose of this correspondence is to convey the County's interest in use of the Hamilton Condominium complex as a temporary library relocation site, and to seek Council endorsement to move forward with development of a lease agreement. In consideration of discussions with County staff, review of their search for a temporary library relocation site, and in particular examination of the other sites referenced herein, the City staff supports the development of a lease agreement with the County for use of the Hamilton condominium complex as a temporary site for the Venice Library.