

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAKEHOLDER'S ADVISORY GROUP

In preparation of the fiscal 2018 City of Venice budget, a number of budget workshops and public hearings were held to consider the institution of a non-valorem fire fee assessment to support the operations of the Venice Fire Department. By consensus, the City Council directed a consultant firm to develop methodologies to fund the Fire Department at an operating level of \$9.3 million. Following the public workshop the City Council passed an ordinance establishing the provision for the institution of a fire fee assessment. However, the subsequent Council vote on a Resolution to implement the fire fee assessment as a component of the 2018 budget failed. During the discussions, on the fire fee assessment it was suggested that a stakeholders group of Venice citizens be formed to analyze the fire fee assessment and to provide a recommendation to the City Council for funding of the Fire Department.

To assist the stakeholder's group in meeting their mandate, following is a list of suggested tasks to incorporate into their analysis:

- Review the Florida statutes governing fire fees
- Review relevant Florida court cases
- Examine the City of Venice annual General Operating Budget and various funds currently supporting the operating and capital needs of the Fire Department
- Examine the current and future operating and equipment requirements of the Fire Department
- Review the proceedings of the 2018 fire fee workshops and public hearings.

Desired Outcomes:

- An assessment of the revenue options and methodologies for funding the Fire Department.
- A determination of the needs and options for additional revenue sources, beyond the annual allocation from the City's General Operating Budget, and One-cent sales tax, to fund the Fire Department (eg. Fire impact fee)

Stakeholder Group Guidelines:

- The City will solicit for volunteers to participate in the stakeholder's mission
- The stakeholder applicants shall submit a written request for appointment to the City Clerk
- The City Council shall appoint a stakeholder's group representing the various geographic sections of the City and the various building structure types including: single family residence, condominium, manufactured home, commercial/business, and non-profit facilities.
- The stakeholders group shall meet in a timely manner and develop a report for presentation to the City Council of the stakeholder group finding; and recommendations
- The Stakeholder group may be supported in their role with support from an assigned consultant firm, and with assistance from City staff
- The final product and presentation to the City Council shall be due no later than May 1, 2018