

Mercedes Barcia

From: Robert Daniels
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 11:47 AM
To: Lori Stelzer; City Council; Edward Lavalley; Lorraine Anderson; Shawn Carvey; Lenox E. Bramble; ggiles@venicegondolier.com; earle.kimel@heraldtribune.com
Subject: Dear council members, Mayor, staff, and city reside

Dear council members, Mayor, staff, and city residents,

A review of the past efforts and study of the fire department consolidation is in order. This is the basis of my rejection of this resolution that includes consolidation .

About one year ago the city and county spent long 18 months on the merits and costs of a merger. Council voted 7/0 to stop all aspects of a merger and directed the city manager to send a letter to the county with this intent. Here are findings from time spent looking at the data and facts

1) most of our citizens told us they want to keep their Public Safety (fire and police) in Venice.

2) in a merger our fire chief and administrative assistants would have no job. (3-4) terminated in the county system.

3) the Fire pension plan debt of \$20 million stays in Venice just as the city of Sarasota's merger did. This debt would continue to be in our property taxes.

4) prior to 2017 the city did not depreciate capital items, or set any funds for this. Therefore the county asked for a \$4 million check for equipment.

5) many citizens reported they would rather pay more taxes to keep their own public safety.

6) in the event of a merger with the county, all citizens would have to pay the county fire fee, billed with their taxes to,operate the fire department .

7) the county was going to have all new construction pay into their fire impact fee for new fire construction. This is the same Fee that council just passed for our Venice Fire operation starting January 2018. In addition a Police Impact Fee on new construction was also to help fund new and expansion projects also starting January 2018. All monies by state law have to stay in the department in which they are funded

8) the county does not plan to pay for a new station #1 that has black mold, rats, doors rusted, roof leaking, air system getting employees sick, and not storm rated to the safety of equipment and firemen.

In conclusion why would Venice turn over our Fire Department, firemen, all vehicles, all 3 buildings, write a check for \$4 million depreciation, keep the \$20 million pension debt , and agree to total control when our city can't agree on the following:

- ,,,,naming of the new library
-closing of the old library
-naming of temporary library
-proper storm shelter for our citizens
-funding of sports parks
-true costs of the EMS operation
-proper park maintenance

In summary I have provided enough data to vote to not consider consolidation. This resolution has made every fireperson wondering where the loyalty to them is. Can these professionals rely on us for jobs in Venice and not Sarasota county? Our citizens don't want it, our firemen don't want it, our check book does not have the funds to pay for this plan.

After 18 months consolidation was scrutinized and analyzed with only negative results as evidenced by the 7/0 vote of council. Nothing has changed. Therefore I am asking each of you to eliminate consolidation in the proposed resolution.

Regards,
Councilman Bob Daniels
City Of Venice , Florida

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