



CITY OF VENICE
FLORIDA
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City Manager

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

December 6, 2017

Mr. Jonathan Lewis, Interim County Administrator
Sarasota County
1660 Ringling Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Sarasota, FL 34236

Dear Mr. Lewis:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 30, 2017 which purports to unilaterally terminate the Interlocal Agreement for Parks and Recreation Services between the City of Venice and Sarasota County. The Interlocal Agreement is scheduled to operate until 2021 with provision for an additional five-year renewal term. I would like to thank you for the courtesy of providing me with advanced notice that termination of the agreement would be discussed at the November 28, 2017 County Commission meeting.

The City and County have shared responsibility for parks maintenance and operations in Venice through a partnership agreement for more than twenty-five years. The City considers the effective functioning of the parks and recreation areas to be of vital importance to area citizens. The loss of County support would significantly impair the City's ability to continue in the provision of these services. The City stands ready to work with the County to see if we can mutually agree to amend the agreement in a manner beneficial to our respective governing bodies and, most importantly, to the users of the regional and city parks and recreational facilities.

The November 30th letter cites Section 3 of the Interlocal Agreement as the reference point for notification of termination of the subject agreement. That section states that written notification *for cause* shall be provided no later than December 1st of any given year. The letter does not specify the *cause for termination*. I was not aware that the City's participation in the Interlocal Agreement has given cause for termination. Within the context of the language of the Interlocal Agreement, would you please identify the specific cause for termination?

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In the interest of maintaining the many healthy and popular programs and recreation activities in our parks, I respectfully request the County to retract the November 30th letter of termination and to work with the City to identify potential modifications to the existing agreement with the goal of developing an effective working plan that meets the needs of our local population and services the broader population within the County's regional sports and recreation network. To initiate discussions, please consider my office to be the point of contact. I look forward to your reply. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Edward F. Lavalley
City Manager

EFL/jg

cc Mayor John Holic
Venice City Council Members
Dave Persson, City Attorney