

"City on the Gulf"

City of Venice

Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name: Mike R. LaFerty Date: 9/18/18
Address: 989 CHANDLER
City: VENICE State FL Zip 03845
Telephone: 486-0138

Organization (if any): _____

Please Check One

☐ Audience Participation

☐ Agenda - Topic: Budget 2018-24

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 18 day of sep 2018 is truthful.

Signature: Mike R. LaFerty

Comments at public hearing and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker unless otherwise noted.

From: Mike Rafferty <mer112693@aol.com>

To: LStelzer <LStelzer@Venicegov.com>; HTaylor <HTaylor@Venicegov.com>

Cc: rcautero <rcautero@venicegov.com>; jgates <jgates@venicegov.com>; mfiedler <mfiedler@venicegov.com>

Subject: Please include this e-mail as part of the 9/18/18 Budget Hearing Record

Date: Tue, Sep 18, 2018 2:19 pm

Submitted for the record is a copy of the material I will be presenting.

Mike Rafferty

Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

I realize this is not the time to change this budget, so my purpose is to:

1. Bring awareness to a troubling trend in one part of Fire Dept expenditures
2. Comment on the current study to take on the County Ambulance Service
3. Bring up Consolidation with the County Fire Department

At the end of these comments I will ask Council to:

1. Request the City Attorney to research if part of the process to take over the County Ambulance Service will require a Certificate of Public Convenience and Need (COPCN)
2. Proceed with the appropriate steps to place a referendum for voter consideration on proceeding with evaluating the requirements for the County to take over our Fire and Rescue Operations.

Let's look at some of the Fire Dept expenditures over the past 2 years on outside consultant services.

The numbers data I sent you previously show overruns in this area of \$80,000 and \$47,000.....\$127,000 over a 2 year period. This wouldn't be tolerated in the Private Sector.

What makes the situations worse, is that \$125,000* of that amount was paid for the contentious Fire Fee Proposal and Fire Dept Funding that consumed endless hours of your time and our time over the past 3 years.

*(Stantec \$95,000 and Brigham \$35,000)

Consider next, the new study to take over the County ambulance service. Although not a part of the approved 2018 budget and ignoring the fact that the Professional Services Line Item was already significantly overbudget, a Connecticut consultant with no demonstrated job experience in Florida, billing out time at \$350/hour, is issued a PO for \$30,000.

Since the \$30,000 is committed in the 2018 budget, \$17,500 will be transferred to 2019 as an encumbered amount. This innovative method to fund items not originally approved in one year and then carried over into the next year is not what responsible fiscal management is all about!

This Morning you received information about a COPCN as a potential roadblock in moving ahead with taking over the ambulance service. This question should be presented to the City Attorney for an opinion.

This ambulance service effort is destined to become another Stantec/Burton \$100,000 fiasco. The question we taxpayers have is.....What's wrong with the current service....it's not broken, why fix it?

Funding fire and rescue services in Venice is broken and taking over the County ambulance service will not fix the problem. Understood that Council is "tired" of this issue, but it needs to be addressed.

A study presented to Council last Summer showed a per cap cost for Fire and Rescue services nationally at \$138 and Venice \$381; cost per run down in Naples \$1,300, in Venice \$3,000.....yes, every time we hear the sirens, cha ching, \$3,000.....nearly 3 times the national average and 2.5 times what our neighbors are paying in Naples.

As taxpayers, we're tired of being told we have a funding problem with the Fire Department, up to \$2 million we often hear.....we have a spending problem as we are paying far too much for these services, particularly when

an alternative is available.....yes, that nasty word CONSOLIDATION!

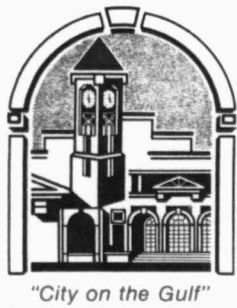
At a recent Council Meeting, an example was presented by Mr. Newcom where a contentious issue was handled by one of our local HOA's. The matter was presented to the HOA community for a vote, which was done, and which solved the issue.

Please let the voters decide on how we want to fund fire and rescue services. It is clear Council is split on the issue and it is equally clear **we all need** to be properly educated on the pro's and con's of consolidation. It is too late for a referendum this November, but groundwork needs to be initiated now to rationally consider and quantify the specifics of such a solution.

In conclusion, I ask Council to:

1. Request the City Attorney to research the COPCN matter
2. Proceed with the appropriate steps to place a referendum for voter consideration on CONSOLIDATION

Thank you,
Mike Rafferty



City of Venice

Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name: CHRIS FERRANTE Date: 9/18/18

Address: PO BOX 294

City: VENICE State: FL Zip: 34284

Telephone: 941 400-8971

Please Check One

☐ Audience Participation.

☐ Agenda - Topic: BUDGET, PAY RAISES

Organization (if any): N/A

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I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 17 day of SEPT 20 18 is truthful.

Signature: [Signature]

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