

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL, SARASOTA, FLORIDA**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2018**

A Joint Meeting of the Venice City Council, Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners, Sarasota County School Board, City of Sarasota Commissioners, Town of Longboat Key Commissioners, City of North Port Commissioners, and Invited Stakeholders was held this date at the Suncoast Technical College, 4748 S. Beneva Road, Sarasota, Florida.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT**

The following officials were present: City of Venice Mayor John Holic, Council Members Rich Cautero, Mitzie Fiedler, Jeanette Gates, and Chuck Newsom, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, and City Clerk Lori Stelzer; Sarasota Board of County Commissioners Chair Nancy Detert, Commissioners Paul Caragiulo, Alan Maio, and Michael Moran, County Administrator Jonathan Lewis, Attorney Steve DeMarsh, and Deputy Clerk Charlie Maloney; City of Sarasota Mayor Shelli Freeland Eddie, Vice Mayor Liz Alpert, Commissioners Jen Ahern-Koch, Hagen Brody, City Manager Thomas Barwin, Deputy City Attorney Michael Connolly, and Deputy City Auditor and Clerk Karen McGowan; Town of Longboat Key Vice Mayor Ed Zunz, Commissioners Irwin Pastor, Jim Brown, Randy Clair, Jack Daly, and George Spoll, Town Manager Thomas Harmer, Town Attorney Maggie Mooney-Portale, and Deputy Town Clerk Jo Ann Mixon; City of North Port Mayor Vanessa Carusone, Vice Mayor Linda Yates, Commissioner Debbie McDowell, City Manager Peter Lear, City Attorney Amber Slayton, and City Clerk Patsy Adkins; School Board of Sarasota County Chair Bridget Ziegler, Board Member Shirley Brown, and Superintendent Todd Bowden.

Stakeholders Present: City of Venice staff Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, Deputy Fire Chief Frank Giddens and Fire Lt. Steve Worobel; City of North Port staff Rich Berman; City of Longboat Key staff Paul Dezzi; City of Sarasota staff Todd Kerkering; Sarasota County staff Steve Botelho, Mark Cunningham, Nancy DeLoach, Chuck Henry, Lynette Herbert, Steve Hyatt, Ron Kennedy, Heather Larson, Mike Regnier, Nicole Rissler, Scott Schroyer, and Gerald Wheeler; Sarasota County Sheriff's Office staff Bridget Leonard and Jon Goetluck; Sarasota County School staff Ellery Girard and Barry Dunn; Teri Hansen, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation; Mark Pritchett, Gulf Coast Community Foundation; Patricia Martin, Community Foundation of Sarasota County; Carol Butera, William G. and Marie Selby Foundation; Harry Anand, Gulf Coast CEO Forum; Jamie Bell and Charles Whiten, Salvation Army South Sarasota; Sandra Frank and John Livingston, All Faith's Food Bank; Steve Guetschow and Megarie VanSickel, American Red Cross; Virginia Haley, Visit Sarasota; Mark Huey and Jamie Miller, Sarasota Economic Development Corporation; Michael Kennelly, Jewish Families and Children Services; India Monahan, Hau Tran, and Kim Sprague, Florida Power & Light (FPL); Sandra Terry, Laurel Civic Association; Tom Ushio, Friendship Centers; and Mickey Watson, Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Detert called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. OPENING REMARKS**

Ms. Detert welcomed all elected officials, partner agencies and not-for-profit organizations.

County Administrator Lewis noted how this meeting came to fruition, Hurricane Irma's path, county, city and school board actions, having an after action review, sheltering, resident needs, storm debris, and staffing needs.

Teri Hansen and Mark Pritchett spoke on sense of community, non-profits learning from this and preparing for the next hurricane, and indicated their foundations were sponsors of this meeting.

Emergency Services Director Rich Collins showed a Hurricane Irma video, reviewed the agenda, after action review purpose and goal, foundation partners, meetings held, overview of process, and objectives.

Former FEMA Administrator Fugate discussed his review including what went right and wrong, how to simplify terminology and instructions for the public, singular focus on safety of the public, areas underserved will not get shelters for this season, structures must be available for the worse-case scenario, otherwise they are off the shelter list. He continued discussing shelters, including identification, retrofitting, making them all pet friendly, opening them at the same time, accessibility, and special needs. He noted the need for notification being provided prior to the storm, zone clarification, using geographic areas vs. zones, re-entry, feeding workers, Sarasota County did not get hit by a hurricane, and importance to have a community approach.

Flagler County Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord, peer reviewer, discussed shelter training, working more closely with the school board, staffing and managing shelters, online, just-in-time, in person, and refresher training, identifying pre-shelter teams, transitional shelter teams, debris cleanup, local resources, contractors, debris was cleared in 70 days, and revisiting debris hauler contracts to possibly include performance bonds.

Seminole County Emergency Management Director Alan Harris, peer reviewer, discussed communications, including social media, multi-modal communication forms, Access Sarasota Simulcast to shelters, employee communications, staffing and closure of government, including refining Emergency-role (E-role) to utilize all employees, engaging non-profits in the process, and to continue planning and preparing.

City of Orlando Emergency Management Director Manuel Soto, peer reviewer, discussed making sure power companies are tied into the process, including restoration, pinging meters, prioritizing lift stations and traffic lights with FPL, prioritizing generator use, and tactical first in teams (T-FIT) being paired with FPL and/or trained with equipment.

Mr. Collins spoke on the after action review process, including the timeline.

Lee Newsome, EREC, Inc., spoke to the after action report/improvement program, corrective action program, including areas of improvement, recommendations, primary responsible organization, organization point of contact, timeline for completion, and implementation and tracking. After receiving the report, priorities, multi-year training, exercises, ownership of status tracking, and assignment responsibility will need to be established.

Mr. Collins reported that governmental staffs are implementing solutions and answers prior to the upcoming season, including establishment of a shelter planning team to find a hardened building in central Sarasota County for possible use as a hurricane evacuation shelter. He noted evacuation center planning for hurricane season, updating/developing plans for hurricane evacuation centers, preparing training for staff, implementing public messaging and staff training, functional exercises for all shelter teams, and coordinated public education messaging strategy. He noted enhanced coordination and collaboration with partners, employee messaging, disaster roles and preparedness, reviewing and updating communications strategy during Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activities, reviewing power restoration issues with utilities, reenergizing Community Organization Active in Disaster (COAD) relationships and planning, memorializing processes during Hurricane Irma response, emergency contracts being reviewed and updated, mitigation grant availability, and state requests for funding. Mr. Collins continued to report that information will be received from peer reviewers and the action report, reviewed mid- to long-term steps, and reviewed the assignment for the breakout groups.

Working group breakouts began at 9:58 a.m. and ended at 10:50 a.m.

There were 12 tables of participants and a spokesperson from each table reported on their discussions.

Topics reported included evacuation education, communication, FPL being on T-FIT teams, defining roles, shelter confusion, including social workers at shelters, training, sheltering pets, utilizing mitigation dollars, responding to residents being put in harm's way, third party transportation, hotel vouchers, special needs evacuations and generators, clarification on what is considered a pet, focusing on people not pets, satisfaction with proposed red/yellow/green notification, involving non-profits early, coordinating and defining all clear and curfews, debris removal divided into quadrants, one voice, simplification of zones, power restoration, vegetation control, underground power lines, citizen expectations, regional planning for all stages of the

storm, opening shelters at the same time, funding, staffing, reverse 9-1-1, pre-determined shelters, businesses sheltering their own employees, disaster only websites, EOC coordination, impact to parents when schools close for sheltering, comprehensive regional inventory list, non-profit capabilities, storm surge impact, working with neighboring communities, FPL conducting classes for first responders, fuel resources, communication in Spanish and primary languages, and partnering with radio stations to continue live feeds.

### **III. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Alan Nelson expressed appreciation to all involved and noted that evacuation of mobile homes vs. flood zones is confusing, established planning committee within his manufactured home park, how to develop an outreach program for his community, and their desire to make sure their plan is coordinated with the county.

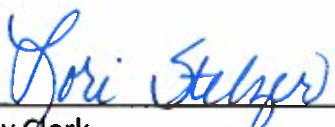
Shirley Brown addressed the need for more self-reliance, looking at evacuees as volunteers and learning if buildings are storm ready.

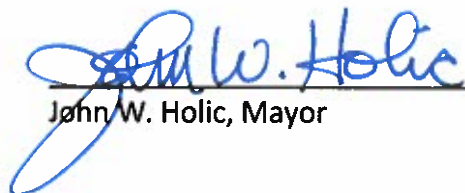
### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Collins thanked those participating and the employees who worked during the storm.

Ms. Detert thanked the stakeholders and adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

  
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John W. Holic, Mayor