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Mr. Thomas A. Harmer, ICMA-CM
County Administrator
Sarasota County
1660 Ringling Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34236

July 22, 2014

Subject: CAYA – Jail Diversion Site Selection Process

Dear Tom:

In response to Chairman Hines letter of July 9, 2014 the Sarasota City Commission voted unanimously at last night's city commission meeting to withdraw from the process to locate a site for a come as you are, jail diversion shelter within the City of Sarasota. Therefore the joint meeting in September to review possible city and county sites will not be necessary to schedule. The city commission expressed that a new jail diversion facility may indeed be needed, but at this time is best left to the jurisdiction and judgments of the Sheriff and Sarasota County Commission.

The issue of chronic homelessness remains a major and important challenge for our city and county. The City Commission is supportive of city staff working in collaboration with the county and others to implement the other 11 components of the plan drafted by Dr. Marbut. Our mutual efforts have resulted in helping to initiate many, many new conversations and some new strategic thinking and partnerships which are positively impacting the challenge. I would again like to thank you and your colleagues for those efforts. The appointment of Wayne Applebee to coordinate homeless efforts has been an especially positive development and I hope he remains in this position and can continue to be pro-active in his work.

I do hope we can continue to collaborate and work to fill some of the other high priority needs to better impact the chronic homeless challenge, with the two highest priorities being the need for additional mental health programs/street caseworkers and considerably more affordable and single room housing options.

Thanks and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,

Tom Barwin

City Manager

*c: BCC
All Marsh
A CAS
Applebee ✓
7/24/14*

TWB/dm

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SARASOTA COUNTY
"Dedicated to Quality Service"

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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July 9, 2014

Via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail (willie.shaw@sarasotagov.com)

The Honorable Willie Charles Shaw
Mayor
City of Sarasota
P. O. Box 1058
Sarasota, FL 34230-1058

Dear Mayor Shaw:

At our joint commission meeting on June 23, 2014, the County Administrator and the City Manager were directed by their respective commissions to continue the site search for a Come-As-You-Are (CAYA) shelter. The direction to both executives included specific instruction from their commissions to search for sites in the city and the county, utilizing Dr. Robert Marbut's site selection criteria, and to focus on properties with existing buildings. Both commissions agreed to a joint meeting in September for an update on the site selection process.

In keeping with that direction, the County Administrator proposed a process whereby city staff would search for sites within the city and county staff would search for sites in the county. All sites identified by city and county would be consistent with Dr. Marbut's criteria as identified in his November 2013 report which was formally accepted and approved by both commissions. The County Administrator further proposed that Dr. Marbut be included in the process by providing a review of all sites identified by city and county staff. The sites would then be presented at the joint commission meeting in September. The proposed date for the joint meeting is September 19, 2014 at 1:30 PM.

In a June 27, 2014, email, the City Manager's response to the County Administrator's proposal indicated that he did not support this approach and wanted to continue discussions about Dr. Marbut's siting criteria. The County Administrator's July 1, 2014, response indicated that sharing the responsibility for site selection would be more efficient and effective since the city staff would be able to identify concerns early in the process. In addition, the County Administrator restated the joint direction of the commissions regarding the use of Dr. Marbut's criteria for site selection.

The correspondence between the City Manager and the County Administrator was presented to the City Commission at your meeting on July 7, 2014 by the City Manager, who indicated he was open to direction. However, no direction or comment was provided by the commission to the City Manager. At this same meeting, city staff presented the commission with the proposed date for the joint meeting. The City Commission did not confirm the date, indicating they were going to delay the decision on the date of the joint meeting until your July 21 meeting.

Based on these actions, the County Commission is concerned about the continued viability of our partnership on homelessness. We began this partnership with agreement on the qualifications of the consultant and the 12-point strategic plan he prepared for our community. Significant resources have been dedicated to implementing this plan and, to date, much success has been enjoyed. The opening of a