

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*

TWB/dm