
From: Missy Stiadle [stiadlem@stlucieco.org]
Sent: 04/11/2014 07:51 PM GMT
To: Linda Hudson; Angela Wilkinson <AWilkinson@city-ftpierce.com'>
Cc: Missy Stiadle <stiadlem@stlucieco.org>; Glenn Henderson <hendersong@stlucieco.org>
Subject: Request for Letter of Support for Veterans Nursing Home Site Selection <Watchdog: Virus checked>

Mayor Hudson,

As Chair of the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners I am asking you for a letter of support in the County's efforts to become the home for the 7th State Veteran's Nursing Home. Attached please find a sample letter which you may amend as needed and also the Project Fact Sheet. Please direct the letter of support back to me as soon as possible so that it can be included in our application. Thank you in advance for your support.

Frannie

St. Lucie County Florida
County Commissioner District #4
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
Ph. (772) 462-1451
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hutchinsonf@stlucieco.org



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YOUR LETTERHEAD HERE
CURRENT DATE HERE

Frannie Hutchinson, Chair
St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Re: St. Lucie Application for State Veterans' Nursing Home Site Selection

Dear Commissioner Hutchinson:

On behalf of the City of Fort Pierce, I offer my enthusiastic support for St. Lucie County's effort to land the State of Florida's next State Veterans' Nursing Home. As I understand it, this new facility would be constructed on donated land within the Tradition community of Port St. Lucie. The State would operate the 120-bed facility, giving veterans in a service area reaching 75-miles from our County access to high-quality end-of-life care that is especially designed for them. The veterans in this community as well as throughout the region will take advantage of the restorative benefits offered by the long-term health-care facility. This would be a tremendous addition to our County.

We have a strong, active contingent of veterans in the City and throughout St. Lucie County who currently have to go to Palm Beach County for many of their health-related needs. Those needing nursing home care have to travel to Daytona Beach to the north or Pembroke Pines to the south. It is clearly evident that our local veterans need to have facilities that are closer to them and their loved ones. The Tradition site is ideal in so many ways, not just for its proximity to our veteran population but also in terms of the economic benefits that a 190-employee State facility would bring to the area. We have experienced some of the worst foreclosure and unemployment rates in the State during the past few years. Jobs are critically needed, and this facility would bring with it an immensely beneficial economic impact to this region. It would be a catalyst for further growth of the research and medical workforce that continues to take hold in this County.

Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County have established a track record for providing quality service to those who have served our Nation so proudly and honorably. I hope the State Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Governor and the Cabinet will agree with me that a St. Lucie County location for the State's next Veterans' Nursing Home would bring significant benefits to those many veterans throughout east-central Florida who need and deserve more convenient access to top-notch nursing-home care available through the State Nursing Home Program.

Please let me know if I can be of further service.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME
YOUR TITLE HERE

State Veterans' Nursing Home Site Selection Application

St. Lucie County and the City of Port St. Lucie are working together on an application to build the state's 7th State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Lucie County. The following is a fact sheet on the County's application process and proposed site:

- The Florida State Veterans' Homes Program provides dignity and security for Florida veterans and peace of mind for their loved ones.
- The closest existing State Veterans Homes to the Treasure Coast are in Pembroke Pines to the south, Daytona Beach to the north and Port Charlotte on the west coast. A Veterans Home in St. Lucie County would be perfectly positioned to serve a wide region of East-Central Florida where no such Home currently exists.
- Service area for this facility (with estimated radius of 75-miles) incorporates all of St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River, Okeechobee, and Highlands Counties, most of Palm Beach and Brevard Counties and portions of Glades, Polk, Hendry, and Osceola Counties.
- This region includes an estimated 211,647 veterans, 112,758 of whom are over age 65.
- State and federal funds will be used to build the facility.
- County and City must provide infrastructure to property line and ensure that proposed site is environmentally sound and ready for construction. 28-acre site at end of Tradition Parkway has been selected
- Parcel must be rezoned to be compatible for nursing homes
- Will be state-of-the-art, 120-bed nursing home facility
- Estimated building size of 100,000-125,000 square feet and \$36.1 million construction cost
- Will employ approximately 190 personnel, both state and contract personnel
- Will operate with an annual budget of over \$7 million
- Will generate millions in economic benefits
- Will increase retail sales from hotels, restaurants, additional services
- Will boost population due to loved ones expected to move here to live nearby
- Will increase home sales, tax revenues
- Will attract nursing workforce from other areas of the state
- Will provide training opportunities for nursing programs, internships
- Five-star facility would generate positive public relations for this region throughout the state