



May 15, 2015

Nick Mimms, Deputy City Manager
P.O. Box 1480
Ft. Pierce, FL 34954

Dear Mr. Mimms:

The Fort Pierce Business Alliance (FPBA) is a newly formed grassroots group of individuals that all share the common goal with the City of Fort Pierce to improve the overall quality of life for our community. We recognize the excellent assets that the City has to offer and have gathered to share our ideas for improvement.

The FPBA wants to bring to your attention certain topics and solutions for some of the issues which we believe will positively affect our City, the branding, the businesses, and the overall economic growth of Fort Pierce. This correspondence will focus on parking which we believe is a current problem that can be solved rather quickly.

We recommend the installation of parking meter boxes, or online parking apps, in the City parking lot east of 2nd Street Bistro. We suggest all street parking, as well as, the large parking areas be metered parking. The revenues generated will easily pay for parking enforcement for the streets and the parking lots. The County's parking lot located east of the Courthouse building should be designated with proper signage for County Employees, clerk of court employees and State Attorney's Office employees. We currently have 154 employees driving to those offices, which require parking. Additionally, we have 71 employees at the State

Court and St. Lucie County Courthouse. Furthermore, there are Law Firms and ancillary office employees that also require parking. In addition, all of the community residents that need to report to these offices require parking. This would account easily for 400 to 500 parking spaces within this small area. The garage to the west only has 70 spaces, therefore, we need to insure the preservation of all these spaces to the East parking lot. Our suggestion for this parking lot is that the public employees be issued decals for parking. The decals would be for sale to these employees only, for \$5.00 a month. These jobs with our public court system and support staff must be retained in downtown Ft. Pierce by assuring proper infrastructure, including adequate parking. Lastly, we recommend that the City install proper signage and banners throughout the downtown directing traffic to the 'free' garages.

Our research indicates that the Florida Building code specifies the requirement for the precise number of parking spaces for new construction is based upon several factors, such as occupancy, square footage and building usage. The building code specifies that adequate parking is mandatory for all new construction of buildings, including academic schools, churches and similar public assembly facilities.

For this reason, the St. Andrews Academy should be required to provide adequate parking facilities (garage) that comply with the Florida Building Code in order to avoid catastrophic impact to the court employees and visitors, private attorneys, as well as the retail commercial industries that are providing jobs in our community. We believe that the parking space capacity the high school, gymnasium and auditorium will require an additional 300 to 500 parking spaces, at minimum. Trina Angelone has consistently promoted concerts and events for the community. We strongly urge the City to enforce standard parking requirements based on their usage.

Other efforts to improve the parking situation include free parking on the weekends when the workforce is not present. Fort Pierce can then promote free parking on weekends. We also suggest that the City direct all vendors for the Farmers Market to park across the street from the Manatee Welcome Center in order to allow the Market visitors and guests more accessibility to parking.

Lastly, we believe that the Trolley should expand their operating hours and schedule additional stops. The City could designate the Trolley stops and advertise

on the trolley and bus benches for additional revenues. Moreover, the Trolley should include various stops on the south island, including Ocean Village and the Jetty, during the 'high season'. This will reduce the number of patrons that will need to park downtown. We feel confident that the City Attorney can determine a way to utilize volunteers to operate the Trolley without exposing the City to any liability, as many other cities have already done.

The Ft. Pierce Alliance looks forward to assisting the City in these endeavors. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Current Alliance members:

- 1) Steve Tarr
- 2) Ralf Fahmy
- 3) Gus Gutierrez
- 4) Mike Brown Sr.
- 5) Joey Miller
- 6) Gary Sofen
- 7) Speedy Fee
- 8) Jimmy Huang
- 9) Joanne McCurdy
- 10) Rachel McCurdy-Willems
- 11) Donna Benton
- 12) Holly Theuns
- 13) Mike Adams
- 14) Leanne Adams
- 15) Bob Brackett
- 16) Glynda Cavalcanti
- 17) Cindi O'Connell
- 18) Allen Osteen
- 19) Ian Lloyd