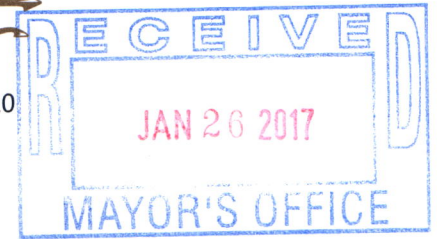




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www.NavySEALmuseum.org



Mayor Linda Hudson
City of Fort Pierce
100 N. U.S. Highway 1
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

January 21, 2017

Dear Mayor Hudson,

The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is working to expand in the near future and has asked the State of Florida to assist with funding; Representatives Larry Lee and Gayle Harrell are our sponsors. The museum must submit our request in the form of an appropriations bill and the form asks if we have supporting documentation. I'm asking the City of Fort Pierce if you would consider a letter of support. The county has our request as one of their legislative items to support and we hope the city of Port St. Lucie will help as well. We have had a history of more than 30 years in St. Lucie County and are one of its leading tourism venues while educating about the military and patriotism. I have summarized the project.

1. **Description and Purpose-** The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum and Memorial is asking the State of Florida for \$500,000 to enlist support in expanding its building complex with a 20,000 square foot addition. The museum continues to chronicle and impart the UDT-SEAL history past, present, future, which began in 1943 at its current beach front site and create an ever better Treasure Coast/Florida tourism destination. Its current national and international tourism/visitor attendance is 70,000 annually and with an expanded facility will reach 100,000 yearly. The museum is the site of many community meetings, activities and St. Lucie County Polling Station #9.
2. **Timeline-** Architect selection, plan review and approval, early 2017. Bid preparation, Request for Proposal, bid selection and contracting first half of 2017. Construction begins fall 2017.
3. **Budget-** The building and exhibits are estimated at \$8,000,000. Building construction \$4,000,000 and interior with exhibits an additional \$4,000,000 phased.
4. **State Funds-**The museum currently has \$100,000 state funds appropriated last year to be used toward the selection, engagement and work product of a museum architectural firm to design and plan the 20,000 sq. ft. structure within our current 4 acre campus and buildings, show-casing United States and International Special Operations Forces of the world. The museum is asking for \$500,000 in next year's state budget.

5. Additional Funding- The museum will have cash resources approaching \$2,000,000 in 2016 and has proven ability to raise more than \$1,000,000 a year. The museum in 2016 finished \$3,700,000 in multi-year projects and is debt free.
6. Local and Private Funds- The museum has notified the Chairman of the St. Lucie County Tourism Development Council of a request to grant \$500,000 from bed tax dollars, approximately 6% of the total. The museum will raise the building balance through fund raising.
7. Goals- Increased tourism appeal, increase daily visitor count and hire additional staff. The museum has a strong tourism base from out of state and international guests with a 70,000 plus visitor count in 2016 and anticipating 100,000+ annual visitors after expansion. As a premier tourism destination on the Treasure Coast it is a short 5 mile drive from the I-95 corridor of Kennedy Space Center and Orlando and located directly on the coastal highway A1A.

The museum has broadened and diversified its tourism appeal with a timed outdoor obstacle course modeled on the actual SEAL training course, video interaction exhibits, sitting in the seats of a genuine 83 foot Mark V assault boat capable of 55 mph, climbing into an actual Blackhawk helicopter and going on a projected video flight are all among its activities. There are boats, helicopters, space capsules, vehicles on display and statues honoring our nation's heroes throughout the grounds. The current museum is a 4 acre educational institution where people of all ages and walks of life can learn about the UDT-SEALs both historically and their role in modern warfare. The Memorial Wall and fountain plaza lists all fallen UDT and SEALs in memory of their sacrifice.

Regards,



Craig Mundt
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