



City of Bradenton Beach

September 27, 2023

415 Senate Building 404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

RE: City of Bradenton Beach - OPPAGA

Honorable Senator Jim Boyd,

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with some background information and the position of my office concerning the requirement for the City of Bradenton Beach to undergo a review with the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability ("OPPAGA"). It has been a longstanding policy of Bradenton Beach to work with any agency or entity to secure data, collaborate, and conduct evaluative research for the betterment of the City as well as Longboat Key and the other two Cities of Anna Maria. In fact, there have been a number of studies previously conducted that we have participated in that explored some of the same concepts anticipated in this OPPAGA study.

- AMI Sun Trail Development Plan (3 Cities draft) TIGER 2016 GRANT
- Barrier Island Traffic Study MPO
- Beach Parking and Assess Study 2014 and in 2022 another Beach Parking and Assess Study was conducted by County.
- ULI (Urban Land Institute Study 2015

Accordingly, we will endeavor to make the most of the coming discussions and work of OPPAGA.

As I understand one of the underlying concerns is with the change in the makeup of the Island population and its impacts on the efficiency and effectiveness of City Government for the taxpayers.

I am hopeful that OPPAGA will explore the *cause(s)* for this change and if there are any recommendations that it will offer to address the cause, as this is of utmost importance to each of our elected officials.

Over the past year our Department Heads and I have had a number of conversations with our neighboring cities. Part of these discussions is whether there are **opportunities to consolidate services or share in providing services to our citizenry in a more cost-effective manner.** During each fiscal year, the City of Bradenton Beach conducts self-examination for efficiency and cost-saving opportunities. These ideas are reported to the Mayor and Commission for consideration and implementation.

Areas of consideration include, but are not limited to:

1. POTABLE WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY SERVICES.

Currently consolidated for the entire Island and the Manatee County portion of Longboat Key via provision of service from Manatee County. Each City has their own Interlocal Agreement with the County. Recently the City of Bradenton Beach was sued by Manatee County to prevent the issuance of building and pool permits to Shawn Kaleta. As part of the lawsuit, the County spent over two years renegotiating the Interlocal Agreement for POTABLE WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY SERVICES; however, despite an agreement to all terms of the settlement, including the Interlocal Agreement, the County chose to dismiss its lawsuit and abandon the Interlocal Agreement. The Franchise Agreement between the CITY and the COUNTY, dated December 20, 2011, is set to expires on December 31, 2026,

2. Fire Service. All Island Cities are part of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District. None of the Cities have funded their own fire department. All Cities have consolidated this service.

3. WMFR will be taking on the Life-Safety inspection portion for all three cities, and I believe would assess the fee through a property tax increase for only those properties registered as rentals.

4. Collection Services. Bradenton Beach eliminated its collection department and has collaborated with the Manatee County Tax

Collected to have some of its services (e.g., stormwater fees) collected through the tax bill process.

5. **Sanitation.** Bradenton Beach had previously provided its own sanitation collection services. Options were explored to determine if the residents could receive this service at a better cost. The City ultimately set up a franchise agreement with Waste Pro and eliminated the City sanitation department. There may be value in having the Cities consolidate sanitation under an Island-wide service or through a single franchise negotiation. Holmes Beach and Bradenton Beach use the same provider, while Anna Maria uses a different provider.
6. **Floodplain Management.** All three Cities could consolidate their floodplain management into one department. The rules, interpretations and reporting are not currently uniform. However, a consolidation of the various floodplain regulations, to be applied uniformly across all three communities would yield additional benefits to all flood insurance policy holders, particularly when combined with Community Rating System implementation across the three communities.
7. **NPDES. All three communities are co-permittees with Manatee County, and each currently is required to categorize and submit their data individually. While it might not be possible to directly consolidate the program entirely, there might be an opportunity for the three communities to contract out the reporting requirements to one Civil Engineering Firm and share that cost.**
8. **Community Rating System Coordinator-Manager.** Due to the difference in local floodplain regulations across the three communities, consolidation of this position would be very difficult. It might be possible for the three communities to contract out the duties required for participation and credit under the CRS program without revising local regulations. However, should the communities desire to combine this agenda with the Floodplain Management discussed in item 6 above, it would make sense that two full time employees, in lieu of a

contracted company, could assemble and document all the activities and data required for participation in the program.

9. **Code Enforcement.** The three Cities all have different Ordinances and Land Development Codes with a different building permit tracking system. It does not seem plausible to use a consolidated staff to provide this service on a single platform. There could be a uniform special master hearing process for violations to be adjudicated.

10. Building and Planning Department Services.

- The three Cities all have different Ordinances, Charters, Comprehensive Plans, and Land Development Codes with a different building permit tracking system. It does not seem plausible to use a consolidated staff to provide Planning or Zoning services on a single platform.
- **Anna Maria and Bradenton Beach**
 - used the same building department service provider and got a good glimpse into whether consolidating this service would work well.
 - Inspections could be consolidated; however,
 - many of the other aspects of the building officials are too varied and personalized to consolidate. Should the three communities decide to completely separate all Planning & Zoning duties from the Building Code Enforcement, it would be possible to consider consolidation of Building Code Enforcement, including plans examination and inspection, through either shared employee duties under an interlocal agreement, or through contracted services. Importantly, because Flood Resistant Design is now included in the Florida Building Code, there is the potential to add the Floodplain Management component discussed above to this arrangement.

11. **Policing. The Bradenton Beach Police Department is all about public safety and community policing.** Our residents know our officers and

our officers know our residents. I have listed services that are part of the duties and responsibilities of the Bradenton Beach Police Department.

MUTUAL AID AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- 1) STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT
- 2) MANATEE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT (MANATEE SHERIFF, BRADENTON, HOLMES BEACH, PALMETTO, LONGBOAT KEY)
- 3) MANATEE SAFE PLACE
- 4) INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT MANATEE COUNTY (COQUINA BEACH & CORTEZ)
- 5) FDLE CHILD ABDUCTION RESPONSE TEAM
- 6) EARLY LEARNING COALITION
- 7) SCHOOL BOARD OF MANATEE COUTNY
- 8) FDLE

DEPARTMENTS UNDER POLICE

- 1) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- 2) SAFETY MANAGEMENT
- 3) DRUG FREE WORKPLACE
- 4) CRA PATROL
- 5) MARINE UNIT
- 6) MANAGING ANCHORAGE AND DERELICT VESSELS
- 7) CODE ENFORCEMENT

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1) CHRISTMAS ON BRIDGE STREET
- 2) BRIDGE ST BOAT PARADE
- 3) SYMPHONY ON THE SAND
- 4) OTHER BEACH EVENTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

- 1) CRIME REDUCTION
- 2) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- 3) Resident Special needs list.

As always, we are here to serve our residents and visitors in the most effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible manner.

Kindest regards,



Mayor John R. Chappie
City of Bradenton Beach