



City of Marco Island

September 11, 2023

Chairman Rick LoCastro and the
Collier County Board of County Commissioners
3299 Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34112

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners:

On April 24, 2018, following an affirmative vote by residents, the Board of County Commissioners approved Ordinance No. 2018-21 which imposed a Countywide Local Government Infrastructure Surtax of One Percent (1%) on all authorized taxable transactions occurring within Collier County.

Subsequent funds received by the City of Marco Island, as based on the formula prescribed by Florida Statutes, amount to approximately \$21 million. These funds have had a remarkable impact on the City, with key highlights as follows:

- City Council allocated \$8 million of the surtax toward our new Fire Station 50, a hardened facility that also provides a local Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Fire Station 50 replaces facilities that have been inadequate to safely house EOC staff and other City Employees during emergencies such as hurricanes Irma and Ian. The building also contains a training tower, allowing our first responders to train locally with significant savings in operational costs.
- City Council also appropriated \$5 million toward improving our Veterans Community Park, creating a vital City Center by adding a multi-generational play area, a state-of-the-art bandshell and concert lawn, a Veterans' Memorial Garden, new restroom facilities, and a large space with new sod and landscaping for the City's popular Farmer's Market.
- Remaining funds have been applied to much needed repaving of city roads and significant improvements to our stormwater system, both of which are high-priority capital expenditures.

The City of Marco Island sincerely appreciates the Commission's efforts to assist the residents of Marco Island and Collier County. As the 2024 Fiscal Year approaches, and with the sunset of this critical surtax on the horizon, the City Council would like to express its support for allowing the citizens of Collier County the opportunity, through a

ballot referendum, to determine whether to reauthorize the One-Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax. We are particularly interested in the Local Option Sale Tax as a revenue diversification tool that doesn't derive funding solely from Collier County residents and property owners, and it being applied where possible to provide property tax relief. For example, the City of Marco Island has set its ad valorem tax rate at rollback for 7 years in a row, providing our citizens with significantly lower tax rates and homesteaded property owners with yearly tax savings. With this diversification in mind, we encourage you to put the question of re-authorization before Collier County voters.

The Marco Island City Council and I look forward to working with you to make the case to the community that these funds have been wisely spent and that this program should continue.

Sincerely,

Greg Folley, Chairman
Marco Island City Council