



March 19, 2012

Mayor Suzanne Atwell
City of Sarasota
1565 First Street
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Dear Madam Mayor:

The DSA works very hard to help provide background information to help the Commission identify solutions for many of the issues that confront downtown Sarasota. Our members participate in the governing process by working with staff, other stake holders and addressing the City Commission on various City issues of importance. It is because of our interest in participating at City Commission meetings and providing the very valuable “boots-on-the-ground” intelligence that our board was surprised by the recent commission votes on two seminal downtown issues without notification that a demonstrative decision was to be made.

The Commission’s decision to rescind the State Street RFP was not anticipated and surfaced during a discussion related to meter utilization. The decision to remove the parking meters surfaced during the agenda item about the parking management forum. The DSA is not objecting to the commission’s two decisions but our concern is rather with the process and as downtown stakeholders we always appreciate the privilege and opportunity to respectfully present our thoughts on issues. Thank you.

Respectfully,

The Downtown Sarasota Alliance - Executive Committee

John Harshman, Chair
Tony Souza, Vice Chair
Eileen Hampshire, Past Chair
Michael Beitzinger, Treasurer
Peter Fanning, Secretary
Jonathan Whitney, Esq., Board Member

cc: Vice Mayor Terry Turner
Commissioner Paul Caragiulo
Commissioner Willie Shaw
Commissioner Shannon Snyder