



June 20, 2011

Dear Mayor Atwell, Vice Mayor Turner, Commissioners: Caragiulo, Snyder and Shaw:

The Downtown Sarasota Alliance (DSA) Board of Directors which represents nearly 300 merchants, businesses and residents of Sarasota has asked me to convey to you our support for the passage of Ordinances 11-4977 and 11-4980. These ordinances in tandem will continue to assist the City in making Sarasota a safe, more healthy and clean place to live, do business and visit.

Ordinance 11-4977 amends the City Code regarding panhandling. With the installation of parking meters and pay stations for parking, we now have a multitude of additional locations where people have cash and credit cards in hand. Just as with automatic teller machines, the parking meters and pay stations should offer at least the minimum security of distance from persons who see such devices as convenient places to panhandle persons who are required to produce publicly, cash and credit cards in public areas that are not always secured by the safety of others in and around such devices. This amendment will provide at the very least a modicum of security for those who come to Downtown Sarasota to shop, dine and visit.

Ordinance 11-4980 establishes a ban on the use of tobacco products in City Parks, the adjoining sidewalks and city facilities. The overwhelming evidence with regard to the dangers of second hand smoke, the unsightliness of tobacco product debris as well as the costliness of debris removal and cleanup justifies the passage of this ordinance to preserve the welfare, again of all those who do business in, reside and visit Sarasota. This ordinance advances our Sarasota as the place in Southwest Florida as the premiere place to live, work and play.

Thank you for your support in preserving and improving Downtown Sarasota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Hampshire".

Eileen Hampshire, Chair  
DSA Board of Directors