

Bring STOP! To Your Group

Welcome to the STOP! Toolbox.

These pages contain information on how to write a letter or email to your elected official, send a letter to the editor of the local newspaper and attend or speak at a City of Sarasota Commission meeting. Take a look at our collection of tools and information to help make your voice heard.



Just ask. We'll bring our message to your group.

STOP! has a multi-media presentation that you can schedule for your group. Help us get this important information out into the community by inviting us to make a presentation to your organization. Our presenters are your friends and neighbors in the community and we look forward to meeting with you.

To schedule a presentation, send us an email or complete and submit form here:
<http://www.forqualityprogress.com/get-involved/>

Community Letter Writing Campaign

Write a Letter. Make a Difference.

STOP! needs your help to communicate our shared ideas to Sarasota's elected officials and news media.

Please write a letter or send an email to our City Commission members and to those who will shape public opinion about Sarasota's future.

Letters or email should be written from the heart, remain respectful to the recipient and be as brief as possible. For your convenience, we've listed the addresses and email links to Sarasota's elected officials and news media outlets.

Mayor Willie Charles Shaw
District One
1565 1st Street, Room 101
Sarasota, FL 34236
Phone: (941) 954-4115
Email: Willie.Shaw@sarasotafla.gov
Term Expires: 2019

Phone: (941) 954-4115
Email: Liz.Alpert@sarasotafla.gov
Term Expires: 2019

Vice-Mayor Shelli Freeland Eddie
District Three
1565 1st Street, Room 101
Sarasota, FL 34236
Phone: (941) 954-4115
Email: Shelli.FreelandEddie@sarasotafla.gov
Term Expires: 2019

Commissioner Suzanne Atwell
At-Large
1565 1st Street, Room 101
Sarasota, FL 34236
Phone: (941) 954-4115
Email: Suzanne.Atwell@sarasotafla.gov
Term Expires: 2017

Commissioner Liz Alpert
District Two
1565 1st Street, Room 101
Sarasota, FL 34236

Commissioner Susan Chapman
At-Large
1565 1st Street, Room 101
Sarasota, FL 34236
Phone: (941) 954-4115
Email: Susan.Chapman@sarasotafla.gov
Term Expires: 2017

Amplify your voice. Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

With just a few changes, you can turn your letter to elected officials into a letter for publication in the following newspapers. Click on the links below to learn how.

Sarasota Herald-Tribune
<http://www.heraldtribune.com/opinion/99999999/send-letter-to-editor>

The Observer Group

Mail your letter to Matt Walsh: mwalsh@yourobservers.com

Below are our positions on several issues that may help you compose your letter or email. Please send a copy of your letters or emails to STOP! for our records.

Have Sensible Traffic Studies

Urge the City of Sarasota's elected officials to make realistic traffic studies a requirement when large-scale developments are proposed for downtown Sarasota. These straightforward studies should reflect on-the-ground traffic conditions, public transportation challenges and safety issues for pedestrians and bicyclists. It is also important that "Concurrency" traffic studies (which are done to estimate the potential payment of road impact fees by new development) be revised and updated to reflect current infrastructure needs.

Put Compatibility Back into the Planning Process

The zoning code for Downtown Sarasota has no "Compatibility Clause," allowing decision makers to consider whether a project is compatible with its neighbors in terms of height, mass, lighting, noise, etc. In an urban environment where most projects are infill, both commercial and residential neighborhoods deserve to have compatibility considered. Our homes and businesses should not be needlessly disrupted.

Ask Developers to Pay Their Fair Share

Large-scale development has significant impacts on roads, utilities, traffic, pedestrians and bicyclists. Residents should not be forced to pay for all these by-products of development with their tax dollars. When realistic traffic studies are required to measure traffic flow in downtown Sarasota, then developers will be required to pay their fair share for road and infrastructure improvements caused by their projects--- not taxpayers!

Bring Back the Public's Voice and Participation

Let the people have a voice! Repeal Administrative Approval for large and intense projects downtown and prevent its expansion to other areas of the City. It is time to return to the Planning Board and City Commission review and approval process. This method stipulates that the public be informed of major development proposals, allows citizens to submit material and to speak out about these developments.

The practice of Administrative Approval in Downtown Sarasota prevents all of us from participating in public hearings about any new-projects, no matter how large or intense they may be. The public should have a voice in how the City grows and develops.

Safeguard our Quality of Life

Our City's leaders should establish standards for wide sidewalks and tree-lined streets. These elements give downtown Sarasota its desirability. They are recommended by urban planners and advocates of new urbanism nationwide.

We need better traffic flow management, safer sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians, more tree-lined streets and citizen input that shapes development in our city. Anything else must STOP!

Thank you for helping STOP! preserve Sarasota's quality of life and return the citizens' voice to the development approval process.

Who is STOP!

STOP! Is a civic group created in the Fall of 2016. We include citizens from all areas of the City of Sarasota. We are concerned that our zoning code creates looming buildings with narrow sidewalks and shuts citizens out of the decision-making process.

Attend A Sarasota Commission Meeting

Your voice matters. Attend a Sarasota Commission meeting and make your voice heard.

The City of Sarasota has five elected commissioners. Two are elected at-large and three are elected from single-member districts. Commissioners meet regularly to discuss and decide on public policy. All meetings are open to the public and present great opportunities to share your thoughts with your elected leaders. You can either speak to a particular agenda item during the meeting, or you can speak on any topic not on the agenda during the half hour of public input at the beginning of each session.

Where do I go to speak at a commission meeting?

The City Commission holds regularly scheduled meetings from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and a second session at to 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall on the first and third Monday of each month. City Hall is located at 1565 First Street, Sarasota, FL 34236.

How do I prepare to speak at the City Commission meetings?

It's simple. We suggest you write down your remarks or make a note card with the points you want to make. Then, just register to speak at a commission meeting with a topic that is of importance to you. Here's what to expect:

- The commission meets at Sarasota City Hall, located at 1565 First Street in downtown Sarasota.
- When you first arrive at City Hall, follow the signs to Commission Chambers.
- When you enter the room, look for the sign-up sheets to speak located near the door. A City employee will help you fill out the sheet. Take a seat and wait until your name is called. Then proceed to the podium to make your remarks.
- Introduce yourself and speak slowly, respectfully and directly to the Commissioners and share your thoughts, opinion and suggestions.

This is democracy in action. Let your elected officials know what is important to you and your friends and neighbors.

Below is a link to give you more information on the Sarasota City Commission.

<http://sarasotagov.org/Commissioners/Index.cfm>

Below is a link to give you information about the City of Sarasota rules of procedure for city commission meetings.

http://www.sarasotagov.com/iPad_Agenda/11-7-12_SPECIAL_Complete_Packet.pdf

If you would like to speak to the City Commission about any topics that are part of the STOP! mission, please let us know and we can share our advice with you. Contact us on the Web at

<http://www.forqualityprogress.com/>

If you have any questions regarding the Sarasota City Commission, contact the Sarasota City Hall:

1565 First Street

Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941-365-2200

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Ask Developers to Pay Their Fair Share

Large-scale development has significant impacts on roads, utilities, traffic, pedestrians and bicyclists. Residents should not be forced to pay for all these by-products of development with their tax dollars. When traffic studies are updated to require measurement of more realistic traffic impacts in downtown Sarasota, then developers could be required to pay their fair share for road and infrastructure improvements caused by their projects--- not taxpayers!

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