



City of Fernandina Beach
Office of the City Manager

Mr. Dale L. Martin
dmartin@fbfl.org

June 30, 2020

Mr. Michael Mullin
County Manager/Attorney, Nassau County
96135 Nassau Place
Suite 6
Yulee FL 32097

Dear Mr. Mullin:

A significant concern among City officials is the condition and capacity of City facilities utilized by non-City residents, including many from elsewhere in Nassau County. These facilities include recreation facilities such as recreation centers, ballfields, courts (tennis and pickleball), and soccer fields; beach facilities such as parking lots, walkovers, and boardwalks; and several parks throughout the City (Central Park, Seaside Park, Main Beach, Amelia River waterfront, and in all likelihood, the soon-to-be-constructed Simmons Road Park). While all these facilities are available to Nassau County residents, it is solely the City residents (who are also County residents) that bear the expense of development and maintenance for these facilities.

The signature recreational facilities (Atlantic Recreation Center, Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, and Central Park) are old and in need of significant repairs and/or renovation. These facilities are the only such public facilities of their kind throughout Nassau County. As the population of Nassau County continues to rise, the strain on these facilities is considerable. Without additional funding assistance for repairs and renovations, it is possible that use of these facilities may have to be curtailed. An alternative to reducing usage is to markedly increase user fees, especially for non-City residents.

City officials are aware of the recreational challenges that Nassau County officials face throughout Nassau County. It will likely be several years to adequately meet the recreational demands of Nassau County residents. The City has the capability to address much of those demands in a more immediate fashion with existing facilities being adequately renovated to support the demands from non-City residents.

On behalf of the Fernandina Beach City Commission, I request that Nassau County provide a 2020/2021 appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 for renovation and repairs to City recreational facilities, specifically the Atlantic Recreation Center, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, and Central Park. The use of such appropriated funds can be made conditional upon County staff review and approval of proposed projects.

Additionally, I will request that, in support of County tourism efforts, the Tourist Development Council provide \$200,000 to renovate the boardwalk facilities at Seaside Park. This park, in conjunction with Main Beach, is one of the two most-heavily utilized beach facilities by visitors to the City. The City has sought State funding and utilized local funding for many other beach-related facilities, most of which are enjoyed by visitors. Because of the extensive use by visitors, I believe it is appropriate to seek funding through the Tourist Development Council.

I would like to formally present these requests and supporting documentation to you, Assistant Manager Mr. Taco Pope, Office of Management and Budget Director Ms. Megan Diehl, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners, and the Tourist Development Council as soon as possible.

I look forward to continuing to develop the relationship between City and County governments, especially to provide services for residents of our greater community.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dale L. Martin".

Dale L. Martin
City Manager