

JERRY LOUIS MAYGARDEN

Florida House of Representatives
Legislator and Majority Leader
1994 – 2002

University of West Florida
Communication Arts, B.A., M.A.
1974 & 1975

City of Pensacola
Councilman and Mayor
1985 – 1994

Doctor of Humane Letters
Honoris Causa
2013

Via Email

October 5, 2018

Pensacola City Council
c/o Elaine Mager, Assistant to City Council
Email: emager@cityofpensacola.com

Re: Proposed sale of Pitt Slip property

Dear Members of City Council,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I know, having been there, how difficult your job is, and the hours you spend in performing that job for our fine city. As most of you know, I served on the City Council for many years beginning in the mid-1980s. My service included having the honor of serving as Mayor Pro-Tem and Mayor.

During my years of service, I became personally familiar with the Pitt Slip property where the Fish House and Atlas restaurants, together with a Marina, are now located. The City did not purchase this property as a park, or for any other specific public use. It was acquired solely by virtue of the fact that its prior owner could not pay the ad valorem taxes.

The City's hope and desire for this property when I served as a council member and Mayor was that it be developed with private funds in a manner that created jobs, and enhanced the tax rolls for the benefit of the city, county and school district.

During this same time period in which the City was trying to accomplish those goals, the City deeded another property it owned, the old city jail, to private business at no, or

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nominal costs in return for private investment and renovation that would enhance the tax rolls, together with promised jobs. The City was unable to do that with the Pitt Slip property as one of those three parcels was owned by the State of Florida. Thus, the property was leased. It is my understanding that this impediment to an outright sale has been removed, as the State has deeded that parcel to the City.

It is my further understanding that the leaseholders would like to purchase this property at its full appraised value, and would add to that full appraised price the promise of making substantial capital improvements that would enhance the tax rolls and create new jobs.

Whether to sell or not sell is, of course, your decision, and I would not presume to tell you how to do your job. The information I can add that might be factors you would consider in approving a sale is:

- A. The property was not acquired for a specific public use, but rather was acquired involuntarily due to the prior owner not being able to pay the taxes.
- B. The property could not be sold or given to a private developer in return for enforceable promises to develop the property in a manner that would enhance the tax rolls, and create jobs.
- C. That the impediment of an outright sale, the ownership by the State of one of the three parcels that make up this property, has now been removed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments, and I wish you the best of luck in continuing to serve this great City.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry L. Maygarden