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August 23, 2018

Friends of Ridgecrest,

On behalf of the Largo City Commission, thank you for inviting City staff to attend your July monthly meeting, and for wanting to learn about what annexation into the City of Largo may mean for you individually as well as for your community. The City Commission has learned that the meeting covered many topics, with a variety of questions asked. A list of the most common questions asked, with answers, is attached. I trust that you will find this information helpful as Largo and Ridgecrest continue their conversation about annexation.

One question asked at the meeting was, "Why isn't the Mayor at this meeting?" There are two reasons no elected officials were in attendance. First, the invitation was presumed to be for City staff, as the questions about annexation are typically technical in nature, and staff are the experts, not us. Second, any time two or more Commissioners are involved in any meeting where the business of the City is being discussed, the meeting is required to be publicly noticed, meaning all members of the public and press are invited. We did not want to change the nature of your meeting without you having input. Going forward, it may be appropriate and timely for myself and the City Commission to meet with you, to discuss our vision for the City of Largo, and how we believe Ridgecrest could be a part of it.

In closing, I am a native to Pinellas County, and understand first hand that the relationship between Largo and Ridgecrest has not always been good. The current City Commission and our residents, however, are committed to a different future, one that is inclusive to all members of the community. We understand that, like any good relationship, the development of trust over a period of time is an underlying foundation. We are encouraged by the conversation started in July, and look forward to continuing it into the future.

Should you wish to schedule a meeting with either me or the entire City Commission, please do not hesitate to contact our Office Administrator, Shirley Frick, at (727) 587-6702 or e-mail sfrick@largo.com.

Sincerely,

Woody Brown
Mayor
CITY OF LARGO

attachment

YOUR COMMUNITY OF CHOICE
Naturally