



City of Pensacola

*America's First Settlement
Established 1559*

Office of the
City Manager

December 9, 1993

Mr. Lenny Collins, President
Vietnam Veterans Wall South Foundation, Inc.

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Collins:

In August of this year the City was informed by the Vietnam Veterans Wall South Foundation, Inc., of its intent to expand the Veterans Memorial with the installation of an UH-1 Huey. Cognizant of the excellent results achieved with the "Wall" project, I did not ask you and City staff to process the request in the manner required by the March 1992 License Agreement between the City and the Foundation. As a result, a number of review steps did not occur and an addition has been incorporated into the memorial which is viewed by some as inappropriate for the site, with questions raised about how this installation avoided the City review.

Ideally, the City would require the aircraft be removed; however, recognizing the time, effort, and coordination between the Veterans, the Museum, and the Seabees to complete the project, this would not be a fair decision. As an alternative to removal or the aircraft remaining in perpetuity, the City requests that the Foundation agree to the following:

- o That no action be taken to preserve the aircraft on site, beyond routine maintenance of a cosmetic nature;
- o That at such time the aircraft requires significant refurbishing or sustains damage requiring structural repairs, it and its pedestal be removed from the site;
- o Or, should the opportunity arise to relocate the aircraft to a more appropriate site, that the option be exercised.

In order to prevent the occurrence of similar situations, we further request that the Foundation follow the requirements of the License Agreement:

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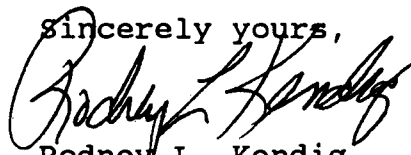
1. Paragraph 3 - Prior to the commencement of construction of any improvements on the subject property, licensee shall submit to the City for its review and approval detailed construction plans and a site plan showing the proposed location of any such proposed improvements.
2. Paragraph 4 - All construction shall be undertaken by a duly licensed contractor or contractors who must obtain all necessary building permits prior to commencement of the work.

While not specifically stated in the License Agreement, there is the expectation that the Foundation submit all contemplated projects proposed for the site to the Gateway Redevelopment District Review Board for its review, comment and recommendation to City Council.

The placement of the Huey on the site, because of my actions, did not follow the established review process and I accept responsibility for not working closer with the Foundation in its placement. Both parties--you and I--knew of the License Agreement and both of us should have checked that agreement. I want to make it clear that it is not the intent of the City to establish onerous requirements, nor present obstacles which hinder the Foundation's commitment to further develop the Veterans Memorial Park, including the World War II and Korean War Memorial. Rather, the City's desire is to continue as a junior partner in a project that is a source of community pride.

My staff and I are willing to meet and discuss our position on this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Rodney L. Kendig
City Manager

RLK/rw

