

Statement to the Board of County Commissioners of
Sarasota County Presented on 11-28-2017

My name is Tom Matrullo. I'm one of the many who have signed the Fresh Start request to the County regarding the County-owned parcels at the intersection of Palmer Boulevard and Apex Road, known as the "Quad Parcels."

My comments are directed to Item 32 on today's Board Agenda, a presentation by the Administrator regarding Budget Reduction for Fiscal Years 2018-19. The Agenda Packet on this item has as a focus the potential of using the sale of the "Quad Parcels" to narrow the \$5.4 million shortfall in General Fund revenue.

I think as an initial matter, the Board should address whether the proceeds of the potential sale of the Quad Parcels can be used for General Fund expenditures. If they were purchased with Stormwater Environmental Utility Funds, then the sale of these parcels should be off the table for the purpose of filling the hole in the General Fund budget.

Second, while the Quad Parcels have been declared by the Commission to be surplus property, their potential uses, whether the parcels are sold or otherwise

developed, are of great interest to the surrounding communities. This is demonstrated by the tremendous outpouring of opposition to the use of one of these parcels for a demolition processing facility which the Board rejected.

I am submitting a copy of the “Fresh Start” initiative which was sent to you on October 12 and which has now been endorsed by over 50 community associations. It calls upon the Commission to place the sale of the Quad Parcels temporarily on hold, and to direct the County Administrator to come back to the Commission with a process -- such as a facilitated workshop -- through which the community can provide the Commission with a range of economically and environmentally rational uses for the Quad Parcels.

Before disposing of this land, please consult the community so that you can make the best informed decision for this important community resource.