
The latest from the government and leadership office of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

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Resilient Business Initiative Week 5

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Resilient Business Initiative - Week 5

Incident Leadership & Decision Authority

Purpose

Establishing clear leadership and decision authority during a disruption prevents confusion, delay, and conflicting actions. Does your organization know who will oversee what, depending on the crisis type? Will it always be the CEO or COO? Is there a set policy that is clear regarding any conflicting orders/directions?

Why This Matters to Venice-Area Businesses

During storms, outages, or cyber incidents, Venice-area businesses could lose time if crisis leadership is not clear and well known. Think of it this way - If this (thing) happens, who has what authorities? This week helps you eliminate or at least mitigate confusion risk.

Key Concept

Every incident needs one clearly identified leader responsible for priorities, decisions, and coordination.

Certainly, the CEO is understood to be ultimately responsible but is that CEO the best person to direct the team through a supply chain or IT crisis in the warehouse or on the keyboard? Maybe not?

Business-Friendly Incident Command Insight

Incident Command succeeds because authority is defined before the crisis. Businesses benefit from the same clarity.

10-Minute Weekly Task

- Designate an Incident Lead - example, hurricane preparation - Who has overall operational planning ability and the ability to delegate correctly?
- Identify a backup Incident Lead
- Define what decisions this role controls

Deliverable

A written designation of incident leadership and decision authority.

Readiness Outcome

- We know who leads during a disruption
- We know who makes time-critical decisions. Are sign offs required? If so, for what?

Connection to Local Emergency Partners

Clear leadership enables effective communication with emergency management and utilities. Once you have a continuity of operations plan reach out to your local Emergency Services partner(s) and establish good contacts that can be checked in with yearly about any needed changes to rosters, etc.

Next Week

Week 6 - Workforce Resilience & Staff Accountability

Legislative Update - reporting date, April 16, 2026.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE – STATUS UPDATE

- The Florida Legislature has not reached agreement on a FY 2026-27 state budget. House and Senate leadership confirm no budget special session is underway.
- The Governor’s special session originally scheduled for April 20 has been delayed to April 28-May 1 and is focused on congressional redistricting; budget negotiations may occur separately if an allocation framework is reached.

Business Impact: Continued uncertainty for members dependent on state grants, workforce funding, transportation appropriations, and revenue-sharing programs. July 1 remains the statutory deadline.

LIVE LOCAL ACT (HB 1389) ENROLLED, AWAITING ACTION

HB 1389 remains enrolled and awaiting Governor action. The bill takes effect July 1, 2026, if signed or allowed to become law without signature. No public indication of veto intent has been issued.

Key provisions expand developer enforcement rights, waive sovereign immunity in defined circumstances, and further limit local land-use discretion.

SARASOTA COUNTY – LIVE LOCAL ACT RESPONSE

Sarasota County's unanimous April 7 decision to deny Live Local Act applications on all residential zoning classifications remains in effect. No lawsuits have been filed as of this reporting date, though legal action is widely anticipated once HB 1389 becomes effective.

During the public discussion, Lourdes Ramirez supported expanding the motion to cover all residential districts. The County Attorney has reiterated that the policy may be vulnerable under the amended statute.

CITY OF VENICE – DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE

April 14 Council meeting actions:

- Nokomis Groves Community Development District (infrastructure financing exceeding \$13M)
 - First-reading approval of Triton Industrial rezoning
 - Annexation and rezoning for Chalets at Venice residential project
- These actions indicate continued local development momentum despite broader state-level uncertainty.