

Planning Board,

Two years ago I moved from Fort Lauderdale to Sarasota primarily due to over development in Fort Lauderdale. In Fort Lauderdale, building height is limited to 500 feet, due to proximity to the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood airport, and FAA regulations. As a result, essentially all new residential buildings downtown are 45 stories tall, with 400+ units. Fort Lauderdale's potable water, storm water, and sewer infrastructure is 50 years old. A few years ago, the City Commission had an engineering study conducted that determined that all of the water and sewer infrastructure was at, or exceeded, capacity. Replacement of the water treatment plant, the sewer water plant, and the underground piping would cost \$1.5 billion. I'm sure it's a much higher cost today. Since then, a major sewer line burst and dumped over 200 million gallons of raw sewage into the New River downtown, which was the highest raw water spill in Florida history. Fort Lauderdale subsequently replaced the main sewer line, at a cost of over \$60 million. The main water treatment plant and the sewer treatment plant are scheduled to be replaced, at a cost on hundreds of millions of dollars. This is primarily the result of downtown over development.

The Fort Lauderdale lesson learned here is that before building heights and density limits are either eliminated or significantly increased, Sarasota needs to determine if the existing infrastructure is capable of handling the increased water and sewer demand as a result of increased building height and density. Has the Planning Board conducted such a study of Sarasota infrastructure? If not, the City could be "on the hook" for hundreds of millions of dollars of infrastructure upgrades.