

Dear Commissioners,

As you know, recently the North Trail has seen a spark of rejuvenation. We have seen investments by Wal-Mart, Goodwill, the Coffee Loft, the Marietta Museum of Art & Whimsy, Ringling College of Art and Design and the Ringling Museum Complex.

These have been very positive developments and there are several other projects in the early stages of development.

Balanced against this positive outlook is the continued negative criminal activity: drug dealers, prostitution and other criminal activity.

Our police department has done an excellent job in the past year and we have seen some reduction in the visible criminal activity. However, as has always been the case, when the police direct their activities to other areas in the city, the North Trail criminal activity creeps back.

This continues to negatively affect the type of development projects that might consider the North Trail as well as negatively affect the perception and therefore the property values.

We believe that a continued strong police presence on the North Trail would make a major change in the perception and presence of criminal activity. We ask that you help find a way to make this happen.

We would like to see a dedicated officer on the North Trail for 24 hours a day. Our understanding is that St Armands, downtown and Newtown have dedicated officers.

Funding is always an issue and we understand this. We have two suggestions:

1. Use the funding the City Commission has allocated for the North Trail development position.
2. Reallocation of some of the current officers to assure regular intense North trail coverage.

It is our hope that making this police presence happen will help us to realize the next step in revitalizing the North Trail and transform it into the Gateway into Sarasota that we all desire.

Thank you for considering this request. We will contact you to discuss this in more detail.

NTRP Board of Directors