

BYRON DONALDS
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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 30, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

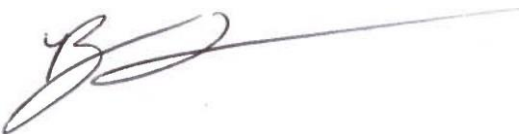
Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you give consideration to the following funding priorities:

1. Provide a funding level of \$3,000,000 for the City of Fort Myers STARS Expansion Project as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is the City of Fort Myers located at 2200 Second St, Fort Myers, FL 33901. This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because the Success Through Academic and Recreational Support (STARS) Program has served the Fort Myers community for over 25 years. Created as a partnership between the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Fort Myers, Fort Myers Housing Authority, Lee County School Board, Youth Partner Organizations, and the corporate sector, the STARS facility has been a safe haven and recreational venue for the City's youth, offering services from academic tutoring, dance, sports, and continuing education opportunities. This vital program, which also provides quality jobs and opportunities to residents in the Dunbar community, long ago outgrew its current space, and the City has embarked upon a renovation and expansion of the STARS complex. The building is being designed with unique community-oriented features, and a portion of the building will serve as a hurricane shelter to increase critical shelter capacity in this area of the city, which is also in a disadvantaged census tract.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Byron Donalds

