

Herald-Tribune

REAL-ESTATE

Sarasota approves \$3M for downtown senior housing tower, parking garage

Sarasota greenlights senior housing tower, adds 300+ parking spaces in downtown Sarasota's Rosemary District.



Earle Kimel

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

May 6, 2026, 5:06 a.m. ET

A plan to expand [senior housing at McCown Towers](#) by building a tower containing 96 homes atop a 316-space parking garage can now proceed, following a May 5 vote by the Sarasota County Commission to award the project \$3.075 million in Resilient SRQ funding.

The project at 1300 Boulevard of the Arts would also add needed parking in downtown Sarasota's growing Rosemary District.

That was the only award the commissioners chose to make out of roughly \$18.6 million in funding available from money awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to Sarasota County following the 2024 hurricane season.

Why did Sarasota County have Resilient SRQ funds available?

The funds became available after Sarasota County reversed a plan to spend \$15.6 million to buy [Forest Lakes Golf Course](#), while [\\$3.075 million earmarked for an affordable housing project](#) to replace the U.S. Recycling Plant became available when that deal fell through.

USA TODAY Shopping: [Shop sales in tech, home, fashion, beauty & more curated by our editors.](#)

The McCown Towers expansion was the top-rated project when Sarasota County awarded funding in January but was bypassed for other projects.

At that time, the Sarasota Housing Authority proposed an eight-story structure with 160 homes and requested \$7.4 million.

Since then, a combination of value engineering and discussion with neighbors brought forth a proposal of 96 units in four stories atop four floors of parking — with the first two floors reserved for McCown residents and the top two available for the city of Sarasota to manage.

William Russell, president and CEO of the Sarasota Housing Authority, told the county commission that the \$3.075 million would be enough to greenlight the project.

County Commissioner Teresa Mast said she wanted to fund the project “Because it’s shovel ready and we’re the last money in.”

Ultimately, County Commissioner Joe Neunder, who was intrigued by Russell saying the housing authority wanted to buy land for a project in south Sarasota County, made the motion to allocate the funds.

How will Sarasota County spend the remaining funds?

Bolstering existing Sarasota County infrastructure, including stormwater or road projects are two likely areas where the remaining \$15.6 million could be spent.

The board will revisit the topic at a future meeting when Sarasota County Stormwater Director [Ben Quartermaine](#) is present.

County Commission Chairman Ron Cutsinger noted that widening of South River Road still needs funding.

County Commissioner Tom Knight was intrigued by a new home hardening program suggested by Steve Hyatt, a division manager within Sarasota County’s

Office of Financial Management who oversees the Resilient SRQ program.

That program would allow homeowners to apply for funds for roof replacement or to install hurricane windows.

Commissioners were amenable to such a program though Hyatt said at least \$10 million should be earmarked to have meaningful impact.

Earle Kimel primarily covers local governments in Sarasota County as well as land development and environmental issues for the Herald-Tribune. Follow him on Facebook, and X. He can be reached by email at earle.kimel@heraldtribune.com. Support local journalism by [subscribing](#).