

June 17, 2024

Key West Planning Board  
1300 White Street  
Key West, FL 33040

**RE: Expansion and New Construction of LaTeDa, 1125 Duval Street**

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Randall Clayton, and along with my wife Elba Canalejo, I reside at 510 Amelia Street which has been our family home since the 1930's. We have been before this board several times in an attempt to salvage a reasonable quality of life in our neighborhood. So once again, we ask your indulgence since the LaTeDa property cited for expansion and new construction is directly behind our property sharing a common fence line.

The LaTeDa is proposing to locate a commercial hotel pool at our rear property line with a defined noise barrier. I am truly skeptical as to the effectiveness of the proposed noise barrier in light of the history of invasive amplified music from this restaurant/bar which our neighborhood has endured for many years. Therefore, we respectfully request that the waiver to reduce the buffer area with less number of trees and smaller planting area not be granted.

Already with the demolition of condemned buildings on the LaTeDa property, the noise level from Sunday afternoon "tea dances" has become close to intolerable and significantly impacted our quality of life and enjoyment of our own property. These demolished buildings had served as somewhat of a barrier to the amplified music played on Sunday afternoons and made this weekly activity tolerable for us.

We are concerned that the Sunday "tea dances" and other party events will be moved to the new pool area, the existing elevated deck or the proposed open pavilion. This would destroy the little remaining quality of life we have been able to preserve and cause property values to plummet in this area. We also do not want to return to the weekly misery of the 1990's and early 2000's of invasive amplified music of the "tea dances" where we had to remain indoors or leave our home to survive the constant boom of powerful outdoor speakers.

So as neighbors of the LaTeDa and longtime residents of this downtown neighborhood, we would respectfully request the following:

1. Move the new pool to another location on the property where it does not impact the neighborhood so negatively.
2. If demolished buildings are to be replaced with new structures, begin construction as early as possible in the project so they may act as a buffer to amplified music at Sunday "tea dances" while construction is still under way.
3. Deny landscaping and buffer area waivers so that the maximum sound barrier may be in place.
4. If the pool area remains at our property line, designate it along with the upper outdoor deck and proposed open pavilion as a NO AMPLIFIED MUSIC or DJ AREA.
5. Document the pool area, outdoor upper deck and proposed open pavilion as NO AMPLIFIED MUSIC OR DJ AREA in the building permit to enable noise level enforcement in the future.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Randall S. Clayton  
510 Amelia Street  
410-991-9694