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**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 12:13 PM

**To:** Jimmy Weekley <[jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov)>

**Cc:** [keyswifi@gmail.com](mailto:keyswifi@gmail.com); Vanessa T. Sellers <[vsellers@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:vsellers@cityofkeywest-fl.gov)>; Teri Johnston <[tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov)>

**Subject:** Support for American Legion Tower at 5610 College Road

**4/1/19**

**Fr: Kevin Redding [KW Citizen District1]**

**To: James Weekly [KW Commissioner District 1]**

**Re: Support of American Legion Tower - 5610 College Road**

**Cc: Vanessa Sellers, Terry Johnston**

Mr. Weekly,

I have been a Monroe County resident since May of 2009. I've lived in Key West District 1 for two years. **I am writing you to communicate my full support for the proposed American Legion tower at 5610 College Road.** I have known Rick Richter personally for almost 10 years. Our friendship began when I was Operations Manager of US1 Radio, Conch Country, and Wave-FM for Vox Media based in Big Pine. Mr. Richter helped our company out of a technical jam and proved himself a generous and trustworthy person. We have become good personal friends since that time.

I have been to the American Legion site, the driving range, and played 18 holes on the KW golf course. It is my belief that another pole will do nothing more than blend the existing dichotomy of urban amenities and natural beauty. We tolerate the less than perfect aesthetics of poles and netting (pictured below) of the driving range (immediately next to the proposed tower site) so that golfers can practice for a better experience on the naturally beautiful 18-hole course. One more pole in that area will generate some much needed revenue for the American Legion. It will also improve cell phone signal quality for golfers, FKCC faculty and staff, plus hospital patients and staff.

I am not an expert in aesthetics or golf courses. I was, however, a professional terrestrial broadcaster from 1995 until 2015:

[In Iowa City, IA, Columbia, MO, South Bend, IN, Burlington, VT, Cape Cod, MA, Boston, MA, Chicago, IL, Astoria, OR, Big Pine & Key West, FL]

I was in charge of preparing for hurricane broadcast capabilities for Vox media with Bill Becker and Ezra Marcus here in Monroe County. What our Big Pine facility lacked in aesthetics it more than made up for in hurricane broadcast practicality. "Zippy" the generator and a microwave dish on Big Pine won Bill Becker a Murrow award for coverage of Hurricane George, but more importantly it provided first responders an additional form of reliable communication in time of desperate need. That group has since been purchased and moved its facility to Sugarloaf. The County Commissioners denied their initial filing for a microwave tower behind their new facility. It is my understanding that after Hurricane Irma their County Commissioners changed their mind with support from the community to allow for a tower to built on Sugarloaf.

It is my opinion that allowing a variance for this tower to be tall enough to provide for a terrestrial broadcaster to provide reliably consistent signal coverage in good times and invaluable emergency coverage in desperate times is the responsible thing for legislators to do. I fully support The American Legion, Mr. Richter, Keys Wifi, and The City of Key West to move forward with this project.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Warmest regards,

Kevin Redding

KW Citizen District 1

