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Dear Members of the City of Key West Planning Department and Community Members:

One of the comments I hear almost every time I give a school tour to a new family is "I had no idea a school was even here". Our school fits in so nicely with the neighborhood it goes completely unnoticed by many people whom have spent their entire life in Key West.

Our campus is full of a lush canopy of trees and well maintained conch houses which compliment Key West's historic island charm. The school and its current administration and board take great pride in maintaining clean sidewalks and surroundings.

The Children's School originally started across the street from the current location in 1972. In 1985 it moved to the existing properties to include 1221 Varela and 1223 -1227 United Streets. The school is the oldest property owner on the 1200 block of Varela Street.

Many parents choose to walk or bike their children to school while others use designated parking spots as well as other legal parking spots during drop off and pick up hours. Our hours of operation are 8:00 am to 5:30 pm with heaviest drop off and pick up times between 8:00 - 8:30 am and 2:15 - 2:45 pm. On occasion we have a weekend day time event or a weekday evening meeting on campus.

As we understand parking in all areas of Key West is limited we request our staff bike to school or park on White Street.

We feel the charming character of a neighborhood school adds to the island's sense of community and inclusivity.

We are proud to have been part of this neighborhood for almost **50 years** and look forward to continuing to offer outstanding Montessori education to many of Key West's long time committed families for years to come.

I hope you will support us in our expansion to 1217 Varela Street. This property adjacent to 1221 Varela Street would allow our students more room for outside exploration and instruction. In addition it would free up an existing classroom to be used for enrichment such as music and art education.

Sincerely,

  
Amy O'Connor

Executive Director of Montessori Children's School  
Parent and Community Member