

Keri O'Brien

From: Southernmost Bride <southernmostbride@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 1:52 PM
To: Mayor E-Mail; District I; District II; District III; District IV; District V; District VI; City Clerk External E-Mail; Keri O'Brien; City Manager; rod.delostrinos@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item #29
Attachments: Grant Application plaza.png; car curve1.png; Screenshot 2026-06-03 at 12.54.37 PM.png; Screenshot 2026-06-03 at 12.55.30 PM.png; Screenshot 2026-06-03 at 12.55.52 PM.png; Screenshot 2026-06-03 at 12.56.46 PM.png; Marcela Signatures 12:48p : June 3.numbers

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Dear Madam Mayor & City Commissioners,

The neighbors who support this who own on South or Whitehead St all mention the drainage. It is my belief that their support is in exchange for drainage improvements, not necessarily wanting the Plaza or the entire length of South St narrower based on their emails, some of their comments to me, and the fact that the City has never reassured us that the drainage will be fixed regardless. That is quid pro quo tactic and it's very wrong of the City to do that. A business owner supporting their sidewalk width getting wider for more foot traffic is understandable. They mention "history." Historically, we are the quiet end, and they certainly don't respect that with 8 hrs of daily outside amplified music speakers pointed at their neighbors to attract the foot traffic.

I have about 170 signatures as of 12:50p on June 3. See attached list of names. I asked for Key West residents to sign.

PETITION LINK:

https://www.change.org/p/vote-no-to-the-4-m-southernmost-point-plaza-project?utm_medium=custom_url&utm_source=share_petition&recruited_by_id=fe79cd90-1af0-11ea-a461-9f228c6032c7

The original Grant Application stated a One-Way street and the Proposed Use was: "Tourist attraction with **improvements to traffic flow**, roads, and sidewalks." (emphasis added, see attached.)

Once the One-Way idea was nixed, and for good reasons, this Plaza idea should have went in the trash can.

It is wrong to narrow South St. That is not an improvement whatsoever. It's not good for the cyclists either.

This narrow two way is direct contradiction to what the City wrote in its own application.

There's no real justification to narrow the road in order to widen the sidewalks as the sidewalks are wide enough.

It's justified to narrow the street where the street Curves in front of the buoy, if the Fire Chief says it is OK. That is the spot that people mention when talking about safety concerns — the fact that people sometimes stand on the road/hugging the sidewalk at the Curve. Those people are mostly there to avoid standing in the line. They are not there because the sidewalk isn't wide enough. It is wide. It's about 11 ft wide.

See photo attached where there are two cars passing each other. There's room to narrow the street right there a bit. That addresses the one safety issue head-on.

The neighbors have suggested allowing for a line on Whitehead St or having two lines. That also addresses safety concerns head-on.

Narrowing the entire length of South St - does not address any safety issue.

Loading Zone:

What if the tourists don't respect the proposed loading zone, then what?

How much will that cost the City to remove X amount of spots that generate about 13K/year?

Line on Whitehead St:

What if this fixes most of the issue?

Narrowing of South St

What if it becomes so congested, then what? Are you going to change it to a One-Way and force South St owners to drive down the flood and drive around the block?

Other questions:

Are you sure you don't want to check with the TDC and try out these various ideas first?

Are you sure you don't want to just fix what is needed and leave the rest alone?

Are you sure the residents of Key West are going to be happy knowing that \$3.3M of their taxes went to widening sidewalks and adding light poles? We have trees there already.

Are you sure the TDC is going to be happy with you promising you're improving traffic flow, and then you pull a bait & switch on them without explaining to them what a narrow two way will do?

Are you sure this is right when you have no traffic study to reassure you?

Do you realize the Tourist Impact Study is nothing more than a PR firm explaining the info the City gave to them, which depicts an entirely different project than what is in front of you?

Does the TDC not have a problem with that? That was a requirement in order to get this Grant money.

At the May 14, 2026 workshop, City staff said and I applaud his honesty and transparency --- that it is an "assumption" that the TDC will say: you must narrow South St. to get this money.

Meaning no one actually asked the TDC as far as he knows.

When I asked the City Manager, can you ask them? He said that it's too late. We'll lose the funding if we delay this any more.

It's not that it's too late, it's that they didn't take care or don't believe it'll affect the traffic flow. I've told them about the reason we need the street width since 2023, repeatedly.

This \$4.3M project will be irreversible. It will cost the City about the SAME amount of money to just pave the road and fix the drainage.

It is safer to have traffic flowing, and less road rage, around tourists crossing at the intersections.

There are many other streets to pave & drainage problems to address.

Listen to the many residents who signed this petition and VOTE NO TO THE PLAZA.

Ego is the problem here. The City does not want to admit their design was a failure. They need to focus on the many other designs that are successful. If I had to choose between a narrower road on South St and the buoy at the pocket park, yes, I will choose the buoy at the pocket park. I don't speak for my parents about the buoy. I'm speaking for myself as a Key West resident who still plans to utilize this road.

I choose quality of life over this buoy. Mr. Pinder who designed the buoy did not intend to destroy the character of our street and the quality of life for residents who utilize this street to get to Higgs or new town from Bahama Village.

The Buoy is being used as an excuse to further exploit our street, give our street to the tourists, Disney World it, and make it more unlivable, waste taxpayer money — all the things Conchs, longtime residents, new residents, and not even the tourists want.

Vote NO to this plaza design. A \$4.3M Plaza doesn't benefit the citizens of Key West.

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