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DELIVERED

April 27, 2023

624 Ashe St. Key West

COMMISSION MEETING

May 2, 2023

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Madam Mayor, Commissioners and City Officials

Just so you know how we feel about our hometown I would like you to know. My husband's family moved to the corner of Angela and Ashe in 1918 when his mother was 6 weeks old, then, when my husband and I were married we moved across the street to Ashe and Angela. Our children were raised on these corners as were her two sons. Now we're getting ready to start the 6<sup>th</sup> generation on these two corners.

Therefore, I've attempted to put together this basic information as I see it, on 'The Ashe St. One Way Project'.

First:

Ashe St. does not belong in a HOA where regulations may be changed at any time.

Ashe St. is three blocks long.

Traffic flow does not exceed more than 30 OR 40 cars per day unless there is an accident on an adjacent street requiring traffic rerouting.

Ashe St. does not serve as a destination thoroughfare, and the majority of vehicle use is by the residents and service personnel, that is (Pool, yard, painting, and construction).

We have personal knowledge of 105 years that Ashe St. has always worked well with the way it is. When two vehicles approach from different directions one vehicle pulls over to a runaway or vacant parking spot to allow the other vehicle to pass. Most of us think this is friendly and a considerate thing to do, and in today's busy world it may be the only time you see a neighbor from down the street today.

Then there is the fact that no prior notification went to any of the property owners about a project going to happen making Ashe St. a one-way and eliminating parking on one side of the 600 block, until our morning was disrupted by the noise of drills and banging.

I'm certain that our city workers thought they were in for being blasted when I paraded outside my house in my pajamas and stopped them in their tracks with 20 questions. I must admit, they were courteous and even gave me a number to call to try to get answers. They knew I was not fussing at them as they were only doing what their job orders were.

When it became known a few days later that a street meeting at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, on a weekday was going to be held, it took no more than an hour to have approximately 10 people attending besides the Fire Department and City Officials. We were informed that there had been a traffic study resulting in this happening. During this meeting in the middle of the intersection of Olivia St. and Ashe St. it started out that Ashe St. was to go north and then it changed abruptly to go in a southerly direction and was then changed again, in the middle of the presentation to go northerly with a very very appropriate addition to eliminate parking on Olivia St. to make a wider swing area. Never mind where anyone will park, and so much for the study.

We were informed that no one was guaranteed to park in front of their home. We were then told that if we furnished an e-mail address we would be kept informed of what would transpire. We did so but never received anything.

We then made up a survey sheet and walked to every homeowner in the three block area for them to sign their name, check yes or no if they were notified, and to get their opinion on making Ashe St. go north, south or leave it alone. We contacted 21 homeowners that were at home. No one had been notified and no one wanted to change the driving pattern of the street.

We then sent several e-mails to our Commissioner and City Assistant Manager to no avail. We then went to city hall and spoke with Ms. Kelly, who is the secretary to the commissioners and mayor and requested a meeting with our Districts' Commissioner. Subsequently Mr. Kelly Crowe came downstairs and passed on some information pertaining to procedure even though this was not his department. We then requested a copy of the survey.

When our meeting with Commissioner Weekley came around the next week we had 13 property owners from Ashe St. and Southard St. show up. Commissioner Weekley listened to our concerns and discontent, and we asked him to procure the survey that had thus far eluded our mail or e-mail.

In a couple of days, we received a call from Engineering to say that they had located the Survey but could not give it to us because the Department Head was on vacation.

Commissioner Weekly did request the information for us and forwarded it to us via e-mail without reviewing it. We were quite surprised, as was he, when we called him back to inform him that the document provided had nothing to do with what was going on. Actually, it was a city-wide overview map that had never been approved or signed off on that had been done two years prior by an independent company at a cost of \$30,000.00 dollars. Part of their findings was to make one way traffic on Green and Elizabeth and Caroline where Lazy Way Shops are located.

Making Ashe St. a one way will only give cars a reason to travel faster as they will not have opposing traffic. They will have no reason to slow down and take it easy, through our quiet, quaint little neighborhood. Florida Greenbook Stats are met with our 7' parking width and 10' travel lane without changing anything.

Upon checking procedure, we found out the project should have had prior notification sent to property owners before it could be brought up before the planning dept. and going before city commission meetings for approval, and only after receiving approval should work orders be issued for a project.

So far nothing in this proposal makes any sense and when any legitimate concern is brought up the officials bring up a yo-yo answer and shut you down.

They have even changed their so-called plan in the middle and sent work crews out several different days to drill and add signs only to then come back and change them and remove some.

Our intention is not to simply stop what some call progress, but, to leave a few small parts of our island charm intact and not discard any more of our true small island ways of life to try to accommodate any or every one that really have no concern for our community except for their personal instant gratification. We have quickly disposed of so many of our roots and ways of life that it is truly becoming obnoxious.

This is the information as I see it in a nutshell, and I personally think this needs to be cracked out of the shell and swept away, not under the rug. Leave our non-problematic neighborhood alone. We love it just the way it is.

Communication is very poor at City Hall, especially citing the fact that it has taken more than 5 months from the time we started this circus until now.

Thank You for your time.