

Can you please put this with the back-up.

Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ross Pipkin** <[rosspipkin@gmail.com](mailto:rosspipkin@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Mar 4, 2014 at 6:08 PM

Subject: fantasy fest controversy letter

To: [csmith@keywestcity.com](mailto:csmith@keywestcity.com)

If possible can you read my letter during the public comments of the proposed law on Fantasy Fest? Thanks. I'm sending a message I wrote today to Mr. Yaniz. Thanks for reading.

He regularly brings up issues to the larger community to make us aware what's happening. Shows us his passion. We thank him. I wouldn't know half the things going on at the City if it wasn't for his updates on Facebook. He really got the community empowered about the sound ordinance hearing.

"Key West has been a haven for decades for artists, writers, gays, retirees, actors, athletes, heck even the military; creative small businesses, and freedom lovers of all kinds. This has created the awesome atmosphere we have here. The magic is in the island. It brings people here. To EXPRESS themselves. A liberation of spirit. Pleazz do NOT feed into the hysterics of Harry Bethel with his real narrow-minded following of 20 to 30 extremely conservative followers. I don't think you agree with his particular brand of family values. He certainly doesn't speak for any kind of local majority. definitely not mine and I was raised Christian. If you listen closer you might find his thoughts and others a kind of hatred for others. racist. homophobic. rightwing. seeing a disgust in the human body. His influence and attitude is shared by a few others thar have brought Weeklys' motion for a new law. It's wrong. Chris Schultz and Evan Haskell nailed it describing the current pulse of FF. listen to folks that are the future. 1 more thing: I see many comments in the paper and FB how gross they think large people look in thongs, or little clothing. that thinking is a kind of self-hatred also. I enjoy seeing folks bigger than normal walking around enjoying themselves safely. They are in a state of self-acceptance. Let them be... people come to our Island to be what their oppressive communities won't allow them to be: free.... Cubans by the dingy load arrive here daily risking their lives for the same ideal. To be free. By passing this nudity law it sends a message to the rest of the country that we too are like your hometown: conservative, stifling, dull, oppressive. That is not the key west folks visit. We are different in a beautiful way. If you want to be like the rest of America in small thinking you have that power. But you'll cut the FF business in half straight away. And stifle the magic this place inculcated to those seeking refuge from the cage of conformity. Thank you for sticking up for the people. Good luck tonight. We have your back. Ross."