

January 10, 2024

Key West City Commission

Re: Major Modification- 2407 N. Roosevelt Blvd.

Dear Commissioners,

I own the home at 2627 Gulfview Drive. Our small community is immediately east of the subject property, on the water, with a mangrove fringe, and many homes, including mine, have a boat dock. People paddle by our docks daily in kayaks and on paddle boards and sometimes swim or snorkel in the area. We regularly enjoy a variety of wildlife, including protected birds and manatees. Unfortunately, for years we have experienced increasing problems with jet skis and small boats running on plane as close as 10 feet from our docks and moored boats. Jet ski tours come by several times on the hour with as many as 15 jet skis following the leader. Often, jet skis follow their leader doing "S" turns within 50 yards of our shoreline, sending wave after wave crashing through the mangrove fringe. On one occasion 2 jet skis, completely out of control, nearly collided with our boat while my husband and daughter were cleaning it, veering suddenly away just 10 feet from broadsiding them in our docked boat. The leader of the string of jet skis was more than a mile away, north of Sigsbee, completely unaware. Countless other times small boats have come within 10 feet of docks running on a plane. When I wave politely to move away they often laugh and come even closer, once throwing a beer can at me.

All of the Florida Keys are in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. **The Code of Federal Regulations prohibit operating a vessel within 100 yards of residential shorelines at a speed greater than 4 knots or in a manner which creates a wake.** 15 CFR 922.163(a)(5)(iii). **The Federal Regulations also prohibit operating a vessel in a manner which endangers life, limb, marine resources, or property.** 15 CFR 922.163(a)(5)(v). This law is not being enforced and there is no signage advising vessel operators that a no wake zone exists within 100 yards of our residential shoreline.

This commission should not wait for a tragedy to occur as a result of a speeding or recklessly operated vessel striking a kayaker, paddle boarder, a dock, boat or manatee. It is certain that the proposed marina will significantly increase boat/vessel traffic near our community on Garrison Bight. I request that the City or the Applicant install no wake signage within 100 yards of the shoreline and that the City marine unit and other law enforcement agencies enforce the Regulations for the safety of the public and wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,



Stacia Holsonback