

**From:** Keri O'Brien <kobrien@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2024 8:15 AM  
**To:** Donna Phillips <donna.phillips@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Key West Planning Board 11-21-24

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Will you pass this along please and thanks.

I am writing as a concerned resident of Key West to express my opposition to the proposed conversion of employee dormitories into transient rentals. This proposal exemplifies a troubling pattern where corporate interests are prioritized at the expense of our community's long-term stability and well-being.

These dormitories were originally built to house the hotel chain's employees—a necessary resource given the well-documented shortage of affordable housing in Key West. Now, another company seeks to convert this essential housing into transient rentals to generate profit, disregarding the critical housing needs of their own workforce.

This shift places an unfair burden on the taxpayers and the city, which are already tasked with addressing the affordable housing crisis. Key West residents and businesses alike rely on a stable workforce, yet the responsibility to provide affordable housing for that workforce is increasingly falling on the shoulders of taxpayers—not the corporations that profit from their labor.

Key West's unique charm and vibrant community depend on the people who live and work here. As city officials, it is your duty to protect the interests of residents who contribute to the fabric of this island, rather than enabling decisions that exacerbate existing challenges.

I urge you to reject this proposal and take a stand for equitable and responsible development. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and I look forward to seeing your commitment to safeguarding our community reflected in your actions.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Cocco

1307 Elizabeth St