

March 19, 2019

Joe Bachman
1220 Royal Street
Key West, FL 33040

Members of the Key West Planning Board
Key West, Florida 33040

Our Fellow Key Westers & Members of The Key West Planning Board:

We are long-time homeowners and year-round residents of Key West, and we are writing this letter in support of the proposed work-force live-aboard housing project being considered here tonight. Key West should take the lead on this one--an innovative step toward creating a neighborhood of state-of-the-art floating homes that would be affordable for working people. Our community relies on these folks--they provide the labor and services that support our city, our schools, government, our trades, retail shops, our tourist economy, the arts and theater—every aspect of the island that makes Key West a truly great place to live and vacation. Those who cannot make ends meet will have to leave. Our economy will suffer and our island will lose its diversity. Many people have left already since Hurricane Irma. Affordable housing continues to be in demand and continues to be put aside each and every time a project is brought before the public. We as a community need to think creatively to solve this issue. We need to act. This project has been thoughtfully designed to be visually attractive and architecturally cohesive. Also by design it will promote biking and walking among its residents, meaning it will have minimal impact on North Roosevelt traffic.

The project won't solve Key West's entire affordable housing problem, but it will be a start and one that could bring the island notoriety as a successful model for other small urban communities grappling with the same issue.

Respectfully,

Joe Bachman

Geraldine LaGotta

