

Keri O'Brien

From: Monica Haskell
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 11:24 AM
To: Keri O'Brien
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Garrison Bight Live aboard

more public comment 5 (multiple comments by this person on different items)

Monica Haskell
District 1 City Commissioner
City of Key West
1300 White Street
Office: 305.809.3868
monica.haskell@cityofkeywest-fl.gov



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From: Tina Wermuth <tinaw0820@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 7:15 PM
To: Mayor E-Mail <mayor@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District I <districtI@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District V <districtV@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District VI <districtVI@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District III <districtIII@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District II <districtII@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District IV <districtIV@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Garrison Bight Live aboard

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This commission is always talking about affordable housing. How can you consider raising the rental rates for the liveaboard at Garrison Bight? Why would the commission consider a study that includes Perry marina, Stock Island marina, or any other for profit companies to compare the rent rates with Garrison Bight? Even the affordable housing on this Island isn't truly affordable but there are differences between these affordable housing units and Garrison Bight. The affordable housing units are brick and mortar while liveaboards are not. The cost is so much less for Garrison Bight.

Please do not price these people out of Key West.

Tina Wermuth

Keri O'Brien

From: Monica Haskell
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 11:22 AM
To: Keri O'Brien
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Vote No on Garrison Bight rents increase

more public comment 3

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From: ARTHUR STENGEL <artstengel@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 6:12 PM
To: District I <districtI@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District II <districtII@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District III <districtIII@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District IV <districtIV@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District V <districtV@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District VI <districtVI@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote No on Garrison Bight rents increase

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Dear City Officials,

I'm writing to ask you to please oppose all the proposed rent increases for liveaboard residents at Garrison Bight Marina. These hikes are not only unfair—they're a direct threat to a unique, historic, and hardworking community that has been part of the soul of Key West for decades.

The houseboats at Garrison Bight are more than homes—they're floating history. Tourists walk our docks all the time asking about the boats and the people who live here. They see what so many forget: that this is the authentic Key West they came to find. If we lose this community, we lose part of our city's cultural identity. We would love to continue and improve our community. We would like the city to help us by letting us work on our exteriors during certain months so that we can make our community even more charming, so it becomes a even better part of historic Key West.

Keri O'Brien

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Liveaboard tenants already carry heavy financial responsibility—we own and maintain our vessels, pay utilities, insurance, tangible taxes, and follow strict regulations. Many of us are workforce or retirees living modestly, without even mail service. Now we’re being asked to subsidize a \$4 million seawall for charter boats? That’s not just unreasonable—it’s wrong.

The so-called market study justifying this hike is deeply flawed and appears designed to support a predetermined outcome. Our contracts promised annual CPI-based increases, and those have always been enough. We are residents. We are not commercial businesses we live modestly.

Please do not let this community be priced out of existence. Protect the people who’ve made Garrison Bight a living piece of Key West history. Keep it affordable. Keep it real.

Sincerely,

Arthur Stengel

Garrison Bight Resident

Keri O'Brien

From: Monica Haskell
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 11:17 AM
To: Keri O'Brien
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Per: Garrison Bight rents Wednesday meeting

More public comment

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From: Lorrie Scaggs <lorrieslife@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 4:56 PM
To: Mayor E-Mail <mayor@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District I <districtI@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District II <districtII@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District III <districtIII@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District IV <districtIV@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District V <districtV@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; District VI <districtVI@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Steven P. McAlearney <smcalearney@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Karen Olson <kolson@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Per: Garrison Bight rents Wednesday meeting

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Dear Honorable Mayor and Commissioners,

I am writing to you not only as a long-time resident but as a member of a vibrant, historic, and close-knit community that calls Garrison Bight Marina home. The proposed rent increases for the liveaboard tenants are not only unreasonable—they are unjust, inhumane, and threaten the very fabric of one of Key West's most authentic residential neighborhoods.

Garrison Bight is not a commercial marina or a transient tourist stop. It is a true community—one built over decades, boat by boat, person by person. Many of the vessels docked here are not only homes, they are floating pieces of history. **The houseboats that line our docks are part of the original Key West charm that visitors come to see—not sleek yachts or short-term rentals, but living history.**

Every week, tourists walk our docks and stop to talk. They ask questions about the boats, the stories, the people who live here. They are fascinated to learn that real people still live this way in Key West—that this kind of soulful, salt-worn community still exists amid the rising tide of resorts and luxury developments. They tell us this is what they came to Key West to find.

And yet this community is under threat—not by storms or the sea, but by policy.

The proposed rent hikes appear calculated to force out long-term residents, many of whom are retirees or members of the local workforce. These are not people “living high on the hog.” These are veterans, service workers, artists, nurses, and others who work hard, living modestly, and give back to the city consistently. And yet they are being asked to shoulder an unjustified financial burden that seems more aimed at displacement than sustainability.

Liveaboard residents already pay 100% of their vessel maintenance, insurance, substantial vessel transfer fee, taxes, utilities, and tangible taxes. They abide by strict rules, many of which make upkeep more difficult—not easier. There is no mail service. There is no glamour. But there is pride, history, and a deep love of community.

The attempt to push through steep rent increases under the guise of a faulty market comparison study only deepens the wound. The city should demand a refund for that disingenuous study—it seems to have been written with one purpose: to justify rent hikes at Garrison Bight. That is not impartial analysis; it is manipulation.

What’s more, placing the cost burden of a \$4 million seawall project—intended to benefit charter boats and commercial operations—on the backs of private, non-commercial liveaboard residents is not just unreasonable. It’s unconscionable.

All of us entered into contracts that outlined a CPI-based annual adjustment, and that has always been a fair and balanced approach. Now we are being blindsided by massive increases that violate both the letter and spirit of that agreement.

Key West is losing its history to the pressures of money. We ask you—implore you—not to let Garrison Bight become the next piece of our city’s soul to be sold off. This marina is not just a dock. It is a neighborhood, a living museum, a testament to the independence, resilience, and resourcefulness that once defined Key West. It should be preserved, protected, and supported—not dismantled.

Please stand with us, your constituents, and defend what makes Key West truly special. Reject these rent increases. Preserve this piece of history. And help us make it even better—not by replacing it, but by investing in what is already here.

Please vote no

Sincerely,

Lorrie Scaggs

Garrison Bight Liveaboard Resident