

Amanda Arencibia

From: Keri O'Brien
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Amanda Arencibia
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Input for July 17th Budget Workshop

From: Colleen Hough <colleen.hough@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 3:19 PM
To: Keri O'Brien <kobrien@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Cc: Samuel Kaufman <skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Input for July 17th Budget Workshop

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Please submit the following as a public comment for the City Marina at Garrison Bight portion of the City Budget Workshop on July 17th, 2024:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rental increases on the City Marina at Garrison Bight 2024/2025 Budget. Marina Management is attempting to increase rental rates 100% by Oct 2026 for Liveaboard tenants. The justification given by the Marina is that there are Capital Improvement projects slated for Garrison Bight over the next ten years. The numerous projects listed on the Construction in Progress (CIP) Report list infrastructure improvements throughout the entire Marina. Only one project is in the area of the Liveaboard tenant piers. However, ONLY LIVEABOARD TENANTS are being targeted for the outrageous rate increase.

There are other categories of tenants at Garrison Bight such as Transient Slips, Recreational Slips, Charter Boat Row, Land Lease docks/properties, and the Mooring Field tenants. Why should Liveaboard Tenants be so harshly burdened with funding projects in other areas? Why are these other tenants not getting rent increases?

Liveaboard tenants of Garrison Bight would like to work with Marina Management on finding fair and equitable solutions to this issue. The Mayor and Commissioners tasked the previous City Manager and the Marina Management to work with residents, however, there has been no effort on their part to do so. Emails requesting inclusion in the planning process have gone unanswered. Residents have been barred from Price Structure meetings.

Sam Kaufman scheduled a Town Meeting for Garrison Bight residents to give their input on June 26th, however, that had to be canceled due to a conflict with the Commission's Special Meeting on that date. There was no opportunity to reschedule the meeting prior to the July 16th/17th Budget Workshop.

Interim Assistant City Manager Steven McAlearney and Interim Port Director Karen Olsen are attempting to push through the 100% rent increase through this budget meeting and by insisting his Price Increase Resolution be voted on at the Aug 8, 2024 Commission Meeting. In a recent email Mr. McAlearney

stated: *"The proposed rate increase needs to be on the August agenda in order to be included in the marina FY24-25 budget submission. Should it pass, the new Commission will have the opportunity to veto the increase at the September budget readings. We will postpone the (tenant) workshop indefinitely."*

This gives me the impression that Mr. McAlearney and Ms. Olsen have no interest in working with the tenants.

I request that the City Marina at Garrison Bight Budget be DISAPPROVED as it currently stands. The tenants need to be a part of the process to come up with methods to increase revenue without targeting Liveaboard tenants. A 100% increase is pushing people out of their homes, including workforce housing residents, retirees, and veterans.

Respectfully,

Col Colleen B. Hough, USAF Ret
Garrison Bight Resident