

Good evening. My name is Loretta Di Tocco and I've lived in Key West for almost 20 years.

I'm a supporter and ally of the LGBTQ+ community. I want to share what those rainbow fences mean to me — and to many of our neighbors.

When anti-LGBTQ+ legislation began passing in Florida, when the rights of our friends and neighbors were questioned, when some young people were made to feel invisible — a few rainbow fences appeared. Not throughout the city. Not on every block. Just a few homes. A small section of fence. A quiet but powerful statement that said:

“You're seen. You're valued. You belong here.”

That mattered. It still matters.

I understand this board's role. This is about historic preservation, guidelines, and process. I respect that. Old Town's character is one of the reasons so many of us love living here.

But when members of our community feel targeted, visible signs of solidarity matter. Knowing your neighbors stand with you matters.

What has been difficult is the lack of clarity.

Neighbors participated in public discussions about allowing these fences. They came to meetings. They acted in good faith. Some then received citations. Enforcement seemed to

pause — but without clear direction. And now, months later, we still don't have resolution.

So here's what I'm asking:

- Formally suspend enforcement while the text amendment process is completed.
- Do not penalize residents who acted in good faith during your public deliberations.
- Establish a clear, temporary permit process — with defined time limits, restoration requirements, and reasonable fees.
- And please move this forward with urgency.

This doesn't require abandoning preservation standards. It requires thoughtful balance.

Key West has long been a place where people could live openly and authentically. Our colorful, independent spirit is part of our historic identity. Limited, temporary rainbow fence sections do not threaten that character — they reflect it.

This is not about making permanent changes to Old Town. It is about allowing a modest, time-limited expression of

solidarity during a difficult moment for part of our community.

We can protect our architectural heritage and show compassion at the same time.

I respectfully ask you to show leadership, provide clarity, and resolve this fairly.

Thank you.