

Matt and Denise Odachowski
405 South Street
Key West FL 33040

May 21, 2026

RE: Southernmost Point Buoy Plaza Vote on June 4

Mayor, City Commissioners and City Clerk:

We would first like to thank the City Manager and the engineers for taking their time to give the neighbors of South/Whitehead Streets a presentation on the proposed project to be completed at the Southernmost Buoy and most importantly for listening to our concerns/suggestions.

We left the meeting with a better understanding of the project and with confidence that the City is clearly working in all our best interests to take care of the severe drainage issues on our streets. The neighborhood suggestions on installing a double check valve on the outfall pipe (water flows out but not inward) and a one-way flow out for the flood opening near the buoy located on the new wall will substantially reduce the water intrusion. The suggestion of an additional secondary pipe on South and Whitehead to the outfall also makes sense as it would assist if there was a clog in the only one proposed now. This would be a great safety feature that would also allow for additional water storage from normal rains and high tides. Since the roadway is already being replaced, this would be a minimal additional cost to add now.

As you noted, most of the changes we requested were superficial, and we hope they will be considered as the project moves forward. Specifically, we asked that the benches be removed to discourage evening loitering and that the line be moved along the Navy fence, with shade provided for pedestrians waiting in line for their photos. We suggested that maybe a couple parking spots be removed on Whitehead, near the buoy and on the Navy side, to allow for the sidewalk to be widened. This will allow for a safer line for the buoy with a wider sidewalk. We also requested that some residential parking be installed in front of 405 South as there are six houses in this area of South Street and no residential parking at all.

We also asked that the speed limit be lowered to 10 mph for safety. Additionally, we requested that a sign that is planned to be placed directly in front of our sidewalk gate be moved by a few feet to not interfere with the gate access. Even though bike racks are planned for the project, we are concerned that bikes will be attached to that sign pole and that we may not be able to utilize our gate. Another safety concern would be relocating the parking pay station that is currently very close to Sandy's parking lot closer to Duval Street. We have witnessed parents paying attention to the pay station while their children wander in front of the parking lot entrance while cars are entering/leaving the lot.

Overall, we wholeheartedly support the project and ask that everyone please vote to approve Toppino & Sons bid. We do not want this project to be delayed any further and we look forward to its completion. We thank you for your time, your hard work and most importantly your service to our community.

Respectfully,

Matt and Denise Odachowski