

From: Ron Battaglia <rjbatt7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 12:29 PM
To: Elizabeth Ignoffo <eignoffo@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Benjamin Gagnon <benjamin.gagnon@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 801 Eaton Street

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Elizabeth and Benjamin

Thanks for receiving my call on Monday and discussing my concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Eaton Street Fish Market at 801 Eaton Street. I have been a periodic and then a seasonal resident at 329 Willima Street the adjoining property for more than 10 years. Over that time period I have enjoyed many takeout meals from this establishment. During that time I have also witnessed it's growing success and transition to a sit down restaurant, currently with seating for 33 persons, rather than a fish store with takeout service. To be clear I have no issue with there being a restaurant in this location, however as we discussed there are particular operational problems that continue to be a concern to those of us to the north on William Street.

I reviewed three main concerns with you which I will repeat below:

1. **Exhaust fan odor.** Given the wind direction cooking odors are most unpleasant and at times unbearable especially to the nearest residents who cannot enjoy being outdoors. I do not know if this is an equipment problem (lack of proper filters) or maintenance issue (insufficient cleaning cycles) with the exhaust hood over the cooking areas.
2. **Trash.** The presence of two dumpsters 24/7 in the street with daily overflowing food waste is unacceptable. Trash is not contained under the lids and often there is trash on top and set next to these dumpsters. I have seen rats enjoying a meal here. There is a putrid odor at times from raw seafood waste as well as discarded food from diners. Hot days are the worst. I understand these dumpsters will be relocated to the area behind the fence where they were several years ago. This was a worse condition as the dumpsters and trash were within a few feet of those sitting at the pool next door. Why not relocate these dumpsters to a new enclosed area at the east end of the parking area?
3. **Drain/wash water disposal.** Behind the fence along William Street and within the setback adjoining the property next door sit a multitude of large fish chests, buckets, ice machine, HVAC equipment, refrigerator/freezers, cleaning materials, etc. It is not unusual for these areas to be hosed/washed down several times daily, presumedly to expel drain water from the fish chests or cleaning these areas (of food waste?) often with cleaning solutions including bleach. This waste water is not contained by present sanitary drains but instead flows under the fence and either across the sidewalk into and down the street or under the fence into the planting bed that runs the length of the fence at the adjoining property.

I'm hoping that these problems can be addressed before any further permits are granted to this property.

Thank you.

Ronald J. Battaglia

329 William Street
Key West, FL 33049
617 Main Street, Suite S-401
Buffalo, NY 14203-1400
C 716-983-2764.