

Sarah Taggart

From: Cheri Smith
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 4:25 PM
To: Sarah Taggart
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: URGENT — CITY TO APPROVE LARGER SHIPS AND GIVE PUBLIC PROPERTY TO PIER B

From: Mary Jean Connors <maryjean.mj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 4:24 PM
To: Teri Johnston <tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Jimmy Weekley <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Samuel Kaufman <skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Billy Wardlow <bwardlow@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Gregory Davila <gdavila@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Clayton Lopez <clopez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Shawn D. Smith <sdsmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: URGENT — CITY TO APPROVE LARGER SHIPS AND GIVE PUBLIC PROPERTY TO PIER B

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Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

Regarding the proposal on the upcoming commission meeting agenda to approve larger and more cruise ships per year for Pier B, as well as hand it the city's property rights at Mallory Square:

This beggars belief. Please show you understand your responsibility to Key West citizens by withdrawing this proposed agreement. Why it has been brought forward is beyond comprehension.

Thank you,
Mary Jean Connors
Resident and voter

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Safer, Cleaner Ships" <info@safercleanerships.com>
Date: March 30, 2022 at 2:52:42 PM EDT
To: Mary Jean Connors <maryjean.mj@gmail.com>
Subject: URGENT — CITY TO APPROVE LARGER SHIPS AND GIVE PUBLIC PROPERTY TO PIER B
Reply-To: us8-330fb3b0f7-a266317502@inbound.mailchimpapp.net

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Friends:

The [agenda](#) for next Tuesday's meeting of the City Commission has been published and includes a [proposed new agreement with Pier B Development Corporation](#), the entity that spent millions of dollars to overturn the 2020 election for sensible cruise ship limits.

The proposed agreement is far worse than we feared. **It is a blatant giveaway to private interests that would authorize larger cruise ships than Key West has ever seen.** We need all hands on deck to defeat this agreement, which can be approved with just four votes next Tuesday.

Here are the problems with the proposed Agreement:

BIGGER CRUISE SHIPS: The agreement would authorize cruise ships up to 1,100 feet long and with a carrying capacity up to 3,700 passengers. These ships are bigger than any cruise ship that has ever called on Key West before and would violate Pier B's permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

MORE CRUISE SHIPS: The agreement would authorize cruise ships at Pier B 349 days per year. This is far more ships than Pier B has ever received before.

MORE OVERCROWDING: The agreement would allow up to 1.3 MILLION passengers per year. This is more passengers than Key West has ever seen in a single year and will create more overcrowding and congestion.

GIVEAWAY OF PROPERTY RIGHTS AT MALLORY SQUARE: The agreement would allow large cruise ships to tie off to City property at Mallory Square anytime they want. This would eliminate any chance of the City generating revenue from its own valuable waterfront property.

A CONTRACT IN PERPETUITY: The agreement would never end, permanently sentencing the City to a future of large cruise ships and giving away prime public waterfront property to be used by a private corporation.

The people of Key West voted for smaller and fewer ships. The City has repeatedly promised that it can control its own property, including Mallory Square. **This proposed agreement makes a mockery of what our City officials have promised and authorizes the exact opposite of the change demanded by voters.** It is an insult to all we have fought for.

We must stop this shameless sacrifice of the voters and blatant giveaway of public property. The private interests who will benefit from this backroom deal routinely and demonstrably violate state and federal law and have shown their clear hostility to our community by fighting to overturn a free and fair election.

Write your Commissioners today and tell them to WITHDRAW this proposed Agreement. Nothing good will happen by discussing or voting on this flawed agreement.

Join us next Tuesday at 4:30 pm on the steps of City Hall to PROTEST this shameless attempt at expanding the Pier B cruiseport.

Thank you for your support. We will keep you posted.

Key West Committee for Safer, Cleaner Ships

Evan Haskell, President

Jolly Benson, Vice President

Arlo Haskell, Treasurer

David Dunn, Secretary

Capt. Will Benson, Member-at-large

Contact your Commissioners:

IMPORTANT: To ensure that your comments are part of the public record, **please copy City Clerk Cheri Smith [csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov]** and ask her to attach your correspondence to the agenda.

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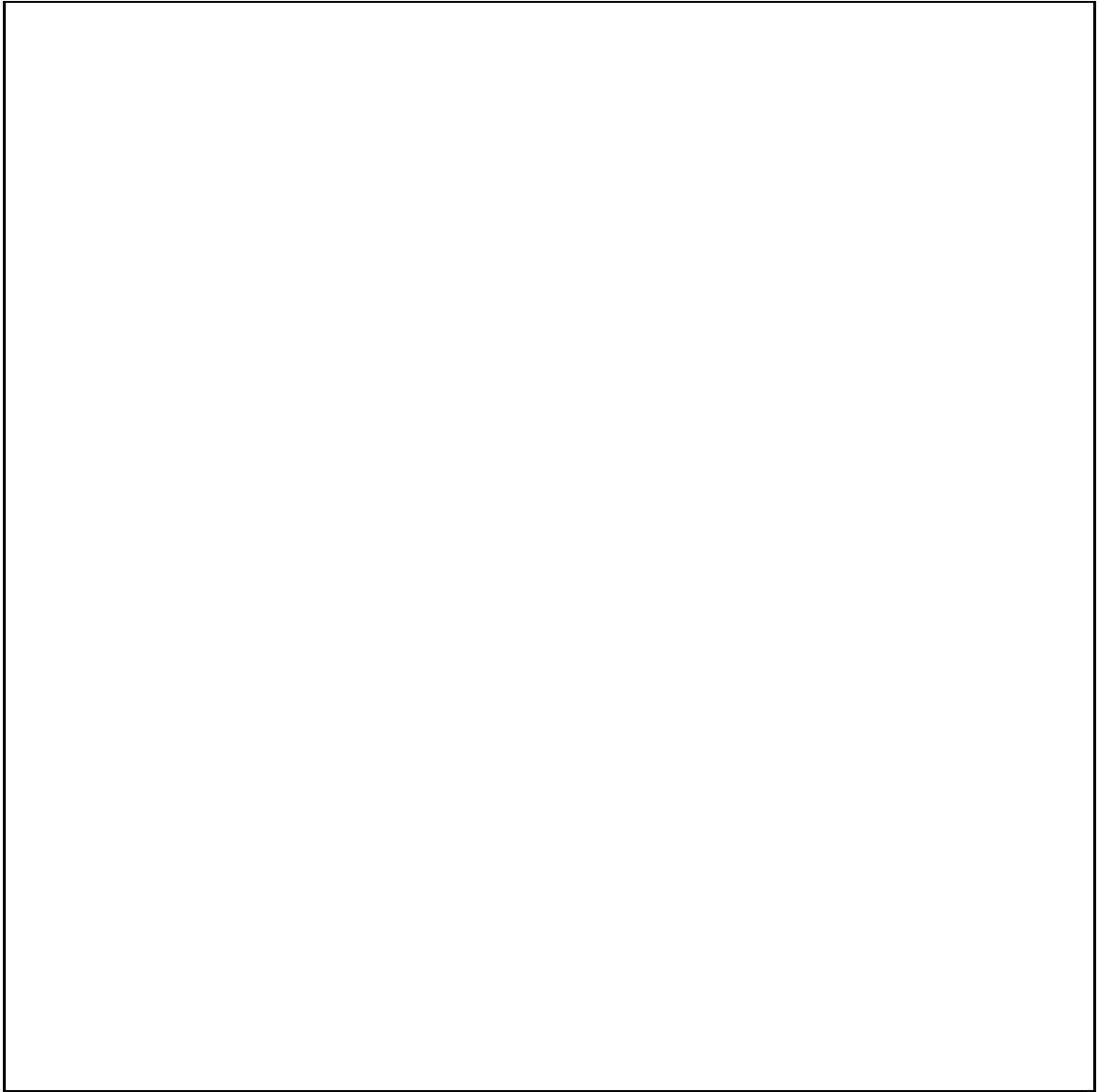
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They have deep pockets. We have you.

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