

Donna, Zoe, and Kimberly-- I hope this message finds you well.

I write to express my emphatic support for the sale and transfer of the remaining transient license from the Carriage Trade of the Studios of Key West to 430 Fleming Street, currently agendized for discussion at the City Planning Board this Thursday, November 17 (item #7).

I believe the Studios to be one of our most important cultural and artistic organizations in Key West. The heart of our community beats through our poets, painters, sculptors, photographers, and playwrights. The Studios does something incredibly special in bringing so many artists to Key West to hone their craft and to share their work with our residents and visitors alike.

In continuing support of its mission, the Studios is undertaking a significant renovation of the Carriage Trade, which houses the artists-in-residence during their time on the island. This renovation serves directly to benefit these artists with better facilities and more space to create and thrive. The sale (and subsequent transfer) of the existing transient license supports the Studios' commitment to keep the Carriage Trade 100% mission-driven, and it helps to fund the ongoing renovations. It is my deep hope that the Planning Board considers the community benefits of this sale as it makes its decision.

Best,

Michael Scott Burau  
522 Olivia Street