From:	I.Gianine
To:	City Clerk External E-Mail
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] My Garrison Bight Dilemma
Date:	Thursday, March 14, 2024 10:55:11 AM

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Dear City Clerk O'Brien,

Please add my letter to the city' s official record. Thank you in advance. I will also be bringing a hard copy to tonight's meeting.

On my first visit to Key West in the mid-nineties, I fell in love; not with a person but the city itself. In fact, I was so smitten with the city, that I made a vow to myself that one day I would have a home here. I visited as often as I could after that first time. Fast forward twenty odd years and I found myself a small place that I could afford in the Garrison Bight Marina. I love my “Flome”; my word for floating home. Access to everything in Key West is within walking distance or a bike ride away. I have made some improvements to my flome, so that it has truly become my home. My dream from so long ago had been realized.

I am a retired teacher who taught special education for thirty years. I am also a widow. I have made friends here. I support the community through memberships, fundraisers and purchasing from local merchants. I would like to continue to have my flome here. I am disappointed and disheartened at the city’s idea of doubling my lease amount as I would not be able to keep my flome; my dream. It also upsets me that there is a person among you who would prefer to see the retirees and snowbirds leave the Marina. I am a retiree but I am not a snowbird as I live in Florida. The fact that this person is choosing to target retirees and snowbirds reeks of ageism and I am hopeful that most of you are more enlightened.

In closing, I hope that you will reconsider the 100% lease rate increase. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

I. Gianine Balzano
Marlin 28
Garrison Bight Marina