Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Variance - 624 United Street (RE# 00036450-000000) . Objection letter for the planning board members.

From Jennifer Willoughby <cumberland.terrace@gmail.com>
Date Mon 6/15/2026 4:17 PM
To City Clerk External E-Mail <clerk@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; planning-dept <planning-dept@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Taylor Brown <taylor.brown@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

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To the Members of the Board:

My name is Jennifer Willoughby. My husband, Joe, and I reside at 622 United Street, immediately adjacent to the property located at 624 United Street. This home has been our primary residence for the past eleven years, including during Joe's active military service and since his retirement.
We respectfully request that the Board deny the variance application currently scheduled for consideration in June.

As we understand the proposal, the owner of 624 United Street seeks approval to relocate the existing structure, remove the existing porches, elevate the building, construct a substantial rear addition, and build a new front porch within the required setback area. The project would significantly increase the size and intensity of the residence, effectively transforming a one bedroom home into a substantially larger two bedroom residence.

Our primary concern is the impact this proposal will have on neighboring properties and the character of our section of Old Town. Existing setbacks in this neighborhood are already limited, with only five feet required on the sides. While those setbacks are modest, they provide an important buffer between homes and help preserve light, air circulation, privacy, safety, **fire prevention**, **emergency access** and the historic character of the neighborhood.

The proposed construction would place the structure and roofline extremely close to our property, potentially as little as two feet from our property line. We are also concerned that construction so near the boundary would damage or destroy mature palm trees on our property that have existed since the 1950s and contribute to the historic landscape of the neighborhood.

We believe granting this variance would establish a precedent for overdevelopment of undersized lots and would further erode the livability and character of this residential area. Variances should be granted only when truly necessary and not simply to maximize the development potential of a property.

Joe and I respectfully ask the Board to preserve the established character of our neighborhood and deny the requested variance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Willoughby