

Letters to the editor

Require businesses provide workforce housing

Once again government tries to do something they can't control. Establish workforce housing. Running more buses of workers from the mainland has unintended consequences. First, additional traffic on already congested U.S. 1, and the outflow of wages to be spent in the north.

There is a better way. Require all major businesses (excluding mom-and-pop shops) that want to build or remodel include with their permit application that they have sufficient workforce — not affordable — housing available for the number of employees they are adding, based on the salaries they will be paying.

Also, amend the building codes to require all new and remodeled commercial buildings include second-floor, rent-restricted apartments for workforce housing.

If you were raised as part of the "Greatest Generation" and lived in a city up North, it was a fact of life. So like the movie title said, we need to go "Back to the Future."

Howard Gelbman

Key Largo

FKAA, Monroe County should follow own rules

A recent press release from FKAA and the county very unjustly and incorrectly attacks two homeowners for filing a lawsuit May 9 that seeks to get those two mega-powers to follow their own rules. The lawsuit simply requests the court to confirm that the law specifically requires that a gravity connection for people's sewers be placed in the right-of-way, not in the yard. So why all the hostility and chest-thumping by FKAA and the county? It's their own rules these women want

enforced.

Monroe County Code Section 20-105 (e):

"(1) The utility shall provide a means of connection within the public right-of-way, whether by vacuum pit or other, that abuts the property and that can be accessed via a gravity system. ...

FKAA/county violates their own rules by demanding that the homeowners give FKAA an easement to build a county sewage pump station in their front yards, with unrestricted access forever to workers. FKAA/county also demand that homeowners provide electrical service for the county pump station at homeowners' expense, when 85 percent of the other CRWS homeowners and 100 percent of other FKAA areas were not required to do this.

FKAA/county's press release calls the lawsuit "frivolous," but what is frivolous about a 14th Amendment violation? Or trying to enforce the law? FKAA/county say the homeowners want to be paid for the easement. They don't. They want the pump stations to be placed on the road shoulder instead of in their yards — just like Marathon did. Just like the laws require. Read the lawsuit and see for yourself at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/20gkhj3huy-3cban/Complaint.pdf?dl=0>

The FKAA/county are making threats, again, against homeowners who are simply asking the court to order that the law be followed. It cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands in attorney's fees when FKAA/county fought the legally-required Cudjoe deep well for two years, only ultimately to be forced by citizens to follow the law and drill the deep well, as they should have from the beginning. Please, let's not have a repeat. Just follow the law, FKAA/county. And stop attacking citizens who disagree when you don't.

Lisa Galjanic

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