

June 20, 2026

Commissioner Knight
Sarasota County Commissioner
1001 Sarasota Center Road
Sarasota, FL 34240

Dear Commissioner Knight,

As a resident of Verona Reserve, I am concerned about the proposed multifamily complex slated for construction on Clermont. I understand and appreciate the need for affordable housing in Sarasota County as advocated for years by Jon Thaxton, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Gulf Coast Community Foundation. However, our objection to this project doesn't have anything to do with affordable housing "in our backyard."

- With the removal of more plants and trees, there will be a greater reduction in birds and wildlife in and around Verona Reserve. Progress and economic growth represent a growing threat to native bird species. Native birds are essential for pollination, pest control, and maintaining ecological balance. Yet, as Venice expands, bird and wildlife habitats shrink, their food sources disappear and their flight paths turn dangerous.
- Verona Reserve, Grand Oaks, Venice Palms, and Villas at Venice all converge on Venice Avenue at the same place. A minimal of 135 additional cars will contribute significantly to the traffic and the resulting frustration. The environmental consequences of traffic congestion are severe and wide range. Congested vehicles spend more time idling and in stop-and-go conditions, which significantly increases their pollutant output.

Since we moved to Verona Reserve, the following building has occurred on Jacaranda: the Floridian rental properties; The Archer rental properties; Brighton Community, a single-family home development; and Marlow rental properties. And there is the Villas at Venice Avenue, more rental properties – all contributing to increased traffic.

- Beyond the environment, traffic congestion takes a heavy toll on people's mental and physical well-being. We moved to Venice from Chicago to avoid heavy congestion.

Sadly, the reasons we chose to live in Verona Reserve are gradually disappearing and that includes the wildlife, a peaceful environment and better mental and physical health.

We would like to thank you for considering our objections.

Ted and Ann Stark
2198 Terracina Drive
Venice, FL 34292