

Re: Proposed apartments on Clermont Rd. Sarasota

Mr. Neunder,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed apartment complex proposed by the Pachota/Sharky's/Venice Mayor on Clermont Rd. in Venice. I know that this is being touted as an apartment complex for affordable housing; however, we all know that the words "affordable housing" is being used as a cover up to push an agenda to benefit the landowners.

I agree that many of the area's rental properties are out of reach for middle-income families, but this complex will not even come close to alleviating the problem. There are many apartment complexes in the area sitting at only 40 percent occupancy where the 11-million-dollar Sarasota County funding could be used to subsidize the empty units.

The important issues are the effects this will have on the Verona Reserve community. Introducing two four-story buildings into the area not only disregards the existing zoning regulations, but it destroys the privacy and quiet ambience of our community. We are a small group of residents that have retired to this particular neighborhood for just these reasons, and to cram 135 units on this small acreage attacks our quality of life.

With the recent building of apartments/villas/houses on Jacaranda Blvd and Venice Ave, traffic has become, at times, uncontrollable. Just come here at 7 a.m. or 4 p.m. and watch the backup for long stretches at the roundabout. We already have flooding issues from the protected wetlands, and your buildings would increase these risks. Not to mention there is no public transportation in the area. What parking provisions have been made for these units?

Lastly, this is a dead-end street and to continue with this construction would create a safety hazard, with traffic bottlenecks and delays in trying to get emergency response vehicles to reach residents in need.

If this project goes forward, it will mean the end of our privacy, threats to our property values and degradation of the quality of life that we have come to enjoy and expect.

I strongly encourage the Commission to deny this proposal and point the developers to an alternative site with which to provide the workforce housing that this group is professing to build.

Respectfully,

**Carla Bourgeois & Comdr. Neil C. Bourgeois, USN Ret.
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