

## Mercedes Barcia

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**From:** Gary Grim <garygrim487@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 24, 2019 10:38 AM  
**To:** John Holic; City Council  
**Subject:** Murphy Oaks

**Caution:** This email originated from an external source. **Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information**

I believe the 105 density on the Murphy Oaks project is too high for the area. I suggest that you oppose the project as it is written at your upcoming meeting.

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Gary L. Grim  
635 Sawgrass Bridge Road  
Venice FL 34292  
[garygrim487@gmail.com](mailto:garygrim487@gmail.com)

## Mercedes Barcia

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**From:** Noel Parrish <arknoel1957@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 25, 2019 6:09 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Murphy Oaks

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I strongly disagree allowing the approval of Murphy Oaks. Venice is overcrowded now. Why add to it. The building must stop now!

## Mercedes Barcia

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**From:** P Schierberg <pschierberg@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 25, 2019 9:02 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Murphy Oaks

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Council,

I am not available to attend the upcoming council meeting regarding Murphy Oaks, but I ask that you consider the following remarks in lieu of my personal attendance:

I've followed the proceedings for the Murphy Oaks development for the past two years, and have even participated in discussions with those pro/con on the subject. I've considered the rights of the property owners and developer(s), as well as concerns voiced by affected parties, Fox Lea Farm and Sawgrass. I've attended Planning Commission and Council meetings, and have provided my input on several occasions. I've reviewed drawings, plats, plans, and projections. I've considered all comments by those representing all sides, and have attempted to remain as neutral as possible so as to come to a thoughtful conclusion.

While my initial concerns were related to water tables and additional traffic within central Venice, I've concluded that my major concern is for Fox Lea Farm and the financial benefit Fox Lea brings to our region. As a former Kentuckian, I have a great respect for horses/thoroughbreds and those who devote their lives to maintaining the health and safety of the equine industry. And, I have been saddened over the last couple decades to observe Kentucky horse farms close or relocate once housing developments became their neighbor. My concern is that the same could happen to Fox Lea Farm if Murphy Oaks, in its present configuration, develops alongside them.

I will not dwell on concerns related to the proximity of I75, flood zones, drainage, road expansions, walls/fences, density/intensity, foliage, etc. Instead, I'll limit my comments to the daily activities and associated noise that comes with ~200 additional personal vehicles to/from Murphy Oaks, plus visits from those who service lawns, trees, landscaping, pools, utilities, waste, HVAC, pest control, etc. Likewise, consider the activities and noise of a working equine facility that include routine trailer arrivals, loading/unloading of horses, audience arrivals, loud speakers, applause, plus lighting during evening events. Noise *alone* could become unbearable for all concerned and a potential safety concern for riders. For that reason and several others, I conclude that Murphy Oaks' 105 homes are not compatible with Fox Lea Farm, and should not be granted approval to proceed.

In summary, all sides have spent considerable time and money representing their concerns and potential solutions. The City of Venice, its staff and volunteers, have done all possible to ensure a fair representation of current zoning requirements and potential variances. In the end, however, I ask that you seriously consider and compare the compatibility and benefit of Murphy Oaks planned development versus the benefits that our region and city receives annually from Fox Lea Farm...benefits not worth risking.

Thank you for your service to Venice,

*Pam Schierberg*

*Steering Committee*

*Central Venice Coalition of Homeowner and Condominium Associations*

*Director*

*Waterford Master Owners Association, Inc.*

*Venice, Florida*

**From:** [laura.gardner13@gmail.com](mailto:laura.gardner13@gmail.com)  
**To:** jholic@venicegov.com; [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Murphy Oaks  
**Date:** Monday, August 26, 2019 9:04:47 AM  
**Attachments:** [August 26.docx](#)

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Dear Mayor Holic and City Council,

Attached is a letter from my husband and I addressing not just Murphy Oaks but the City of Venice.

Please read it and give it some consideration before making your decision on Wednesday.

We are not alone in our thinking. Many of our friends and neighbors feel the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laura Gardner

August 26, 2019

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Once again, the Murphy Oaks fiasco is front and center. This has been going on since even before we closed on our home in Sawgrass in 2017. Not only at issue is the density, which should be at about 65-70 homes at the most, but the future of Venice. It's not just about Sawgrass and Fox Lea Farms. It's all of Venice. You all keep approving more and more building, most recently an airport hotel. It appears that building out the town and destroying our small-town atmosphere is more important than the residents who live here. The environment is a mess, red tide, sewage spills, a sewage treatment center that cannot possibly handle all the new homes, etc., etc. It goes on and on.

A lawsuit has caused you to forget who you serve-the residents of Venice. Let them sue. Do what is right for the people and the environment. The roads cannot handle the traffic. The utilities are not adequate for the growth that has already been approved.

Be smart, and put a three-year moratorium on building. Get roads built, possibly another sewage treatment plant, and do something about what is surely going to be a water shortage in the future.

Be proactive and fix the city before allowing more building. There is an adequate number of housing units available at this time.

Do what is right for the city and people of Venice, even if it means you get sued. We'd rather have our taxes raised to pay that off than end up suffering with more traffic, utility problems, water shortages, and more sewage spills.

Venice is our home. We have been coming here to a beach condo since 1969, but recently sold it and live in a house in Sawgrass. Why? Because of the congestion near downtown Venice during season and the smell from the red tide. Living there became unenjoyable. Now we're facing the same thing.

Think about the full-time residents. They deserve your thoughtful planning and decisions that will keep Venice the wonderful town it is. Venice is a diamond in the rough. If you restrict development until infrastructure is ready, that gem will become more valuable. As it stands now, people are beginning to move elsewhere, which is a real shame.

Please say No to Murphy Oaks Again!

Sincerely,  
Dave and Laura Gardner  
402 Arborview Ln  
Venice FL 34292  
513-404-4493

## Mercedes Barcia

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**From:** John Holic  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2019 7:53 AM  
**To:** lincork22@gmail.com  
**Cc:** City Council  
**Subject:** Quasi-judicial Re: Fox Lea Farms

John Holic  
Mayor, City of Venice  
401 W. Venice Ave.  
Venice, FL 34285  
Office: 941-882-7402  
Cell: 941-303-3357

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**From:** lincork22@gmail.com <lincork22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2019 7:46:23 AM  
**To:** John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>; Richard Cautero <RCautero@Venicegov.com>; Robert Daniels <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>; Mitzie Fiedler <MFiedler@Venicegov.com>; Jeanette Gates <JGates@Venicegov.com>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicegov.com>  
**Subject:** Fox Lea Farms

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Mayor and Council,  
Please vote to reject the proposed Murphy Oaks development. It is inevitable that the development will generate complaints about its neighbor Fox Lea Farms. Fox Lea Farms is a major business that contributes to the tourist tax base in Sarasota County. Fox Lea Farms predates any development in the Murphy Oaks tract, and it would be a disservice to tax payers if the farm is forced to relocate because of new development consequences.

Linda Dalton  
219 Rio Terra  
24385

**From:** [John Holic](#)  
**To:** [Dick Longo](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Quasi-judicial Re: Murphy Oaks  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 27, 2019 7:16:06 PM

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John Holic  
Mayor, City of Venice  
401 W. Venice Ave.  
Venice, FL 34285  
Office: 941-882-7402  
Cell: 941-303-3357

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**From:** Dick Longo <ralongo46@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2019 4:38:18 PM

**To:** John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>; Richard Cautero <RCautero@Venicegov.com>; Robert Daniels <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>; Mitzie Fiedler <MFiedler@Venicegov.com>; Charles Newsom <CNewsom@Venicegov.com>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicegov.com>

**Subject:** Murphy Oaks

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Mr. Mayor and City Councillors,

I apologize that a family wedding this week has kept us in New England and away from the special meeting tomorrow.

Thank you for your support to date. Hopefully, your "No" vote on the 105 building request will bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion. You and the City Councillors have consistently recognized the problems with the Murphy Oaks proposals and acted correctly. Please don't be swayed by the intimidation tactics currently being used by the developer.

Again, I am sorry I can't be there but I trust you will continue to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Dick Longo  
295 Marsh Creek Rd  
Venice, FL 34292

**From:** [James Courtright](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Murphy Oaks  
**Date:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 12:24:10 PM

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Mayor and Council Members,

I could commend all who participated in yesterday's Special Meeting on Murphy Oaks.

However exhausting I think progress has been made. The project will be done, but at a lower density. And a solid plan going forward.

Windham pointed out Misty Pine in Sawgrass as a model but failed to point out setbacks are 20/6/10 on 55 foot lots.

In my opinion the breakthrough agreement was 85 lots in the PUD.

Simple math recalculating lot size:  
 $50 * 105 / 85 = 60$  foot lots, potentially.

If Windham plans 40' home plans on their 50' lots, I suggest 55' lots. Using a better setback like Misty's 20 front, 6 side, and 10 rear, plus easements of 5 feet on the sides and rear of the home.

Hard to argue against this as it matches Sawgrass maintenance-free area it's being compared to. Even side setbacks of 6 feet have caused a few problems in Sawgrass, but are able to be bypassed.

I believe proximity to I-75 precludes trying to sell 50 or 60 foot home sizes in this development.

The remaining space would be green space which is in very short supply in this project.

Good luck in September, and glad I don't have your job!

Jim Courtright  
489 Arborview Ln  
Venice 34292