

**From:** John Holic  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 4:51 PM  
**To:** sasummar@gmail.com; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>  
**Subject:** Re: pool

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Summar,  
On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.  
Sincerely,  
John Holic  
Mayor, City of Venice

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From: [sasummar@gmail.com](mailto:sasummar@gmail.com)  
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 4:34 PM  
Subject: pool  
To: City Council <[citycouncil@venicegov.com](mailto:citycouncil@venicegov.com)>

my neighbor recently informed me that our planning board passed on September 25th a variance to build a front yard pool and ground mounted solar panels on the property at 422 Beach Park Blvd.. I was away for the summer and had no knowledge of this situation. I live at 521 Beach Park Blvd. and I am grossly opposed to have this variance at this address or any other location on our so called island. There are many reasons why this should not occur or any other location in Venice. I will be out of town and cannot be present for the hearing on Nov. 14th. I hope our council has the wisdom to see what this extreme variation from norm does to our community. Pools should be permitted in back yards and solar panels to roof tops. Period.

David and Anneal Summar  
521 Beach Park Blvd.  
[davidsummar04@gmail.com](mailto:davidsummar04@gmail.com)  
[sasummar@gmail.com](mailto:sasummar@gmail.com)

## **Letter to City of Venice**

**November 1, 2017**

**Mayor - John Holic  
Vice Mayor – Richard Caution  
Council Member - Kit McKeon  
Council Member - Bob Daniels  
Council Member - Fred Fraize  
Council Member – Jeanette Gates  
Council Member – Deborah Anderson  
City Manager – Edward F. Lavalley  
City Attorney – David Persson  
City Clerk – Lori Stelzer**

**RE: VARIANCE PETITION NO. 17-03VZ**

**Dear Mayor Holic, City Council Members, City Manager, City Attorney & City Clerk,**

**I am Ronald Springman of 433 Beach Park Blvd and am writing on behalf of, my wife, my two toddler children, as well as other concerned citizens in the Beach Park Section of Venice Island. It was brought to my attention back in late August 2017 there was a proposed in ground swimming pool to be installed at 420 Beach Park Blvd and there was to be a hearing before the City Planning & Zoning Dept. on September 19, 2017. I was unable to attend that meeting because of Hurricane Irma and later found out after the fact the date at been postponed until September 24, 2017 of which I was never informed.**

**In early September I initially was told by neighbors who had spoken to the Juneman's (owners) the pool was to be installed on the south side of the home facing Verdi St. and not the front of the house. I was somewhat concerned with that but assumed a 6 foot high fence and pool cage would be used to enclose it would not be a significant safety issue. NOTE: The owners whom are well aware we have children and live within 250 feet of them, at no time had ever questioned my wife or I if we had any concerns about their pool proposal as the newspaper article had said they did. I still feel offended they never came to us about their desire especially when our property is catty corner and less than 250 feet from theirs.**

**However, I have since been informed by immediate neighbors the pool will be installed in the front of the home with no cage and with only a four foot high fence. I am a disabled Vietnam Veteran, the father of two children, age three and four and two grandchildren also three and four all of whom cannot swim. I have a 25'x10' caged pool with six foot fence in the rear of my home with access only from a large sliding door off my Florida Room and two latch lock screened doors of the screened enclosure. When my children were only two and three years of age they had managed to unlock the slider and as heavy as it is were able to force it open together. I was taking an afternoon nap and my wife was preparing dinner when it happened. I awoke when I heard the sliding door and got up and to my surprise they were out at the pool. I yelled at them which startled my son and he fell into the pool and immediately sunk to**

the bottom while my daughter just looked in shock. I jumped in and luckily he just coughed up a little water and was fine. Had I not awoken my son could have been another horrible drowning statistic.

I immediately took added precautions by putting a safety latch at the top of the sliding door where the children would need a screwdriver to remove. My wife and I always keep the cage doors locked when they play on the back patio or yard, but even then with all the safeguards there are no guarantees they somehow will find a way in so we keep a close eye on them the best we can. Hopefully they will learn to swim in the next few years but until then their safety is our utmost concern.

*Note: If we only had a four foot fence to secure the pool they undoubtedly would climb over it with ease. I find it amazing the state requires a latch at least 5 feet high on a sliding door to prevent a child from opening it but WILL ALLOW A POOL IN A FRONT YARD WITH ONLY A 4 FOOT HIGH FENCE.*

That is the primary reason for this letter. Both of my children are quite capable of scaling a four foot fence and even a higher one. Being there will be a pool visible to them from the road and being they love the water and are old enough to exit the front door of our home which they sometimes do and the fact they cannot enter our pool without supervision they would be tempted to enter the Juneman's property by jumping the fence or the gate if left unopen. No matter how many times we tell our children not to do something they always seem to forget and disobey as almost all toddlers do. EXAMPLE: The neighbor directly across the street from us had four children and had a three foot deep duck pond at the side of the house. My children being lovers of animals loved to go over there to see the ducks when they were home. But on two separate occasions when no one was home my son had entered through the gate of the side of their house and was leaning in to try and touch the ducks. I was very concerned he could fall in and possibly drown or get sick from the water so I punished him but he went and did it again some weeks later and maybe on other days my wife and I weren't aware of. I informed the neighbor to keep the gate locked which she did most of the time. They have since moved away and have filled in the duck pond to our relief.

I find it rather appalling the members of the planning board who are not elected officials and are merely appointed would be so irresponsible to vote in favor of this variance without taking into consideration as to the safety and impact issues on the neighborhood. Not only would it be a major safety issue but would more likely than not depreciate the value of the Juneman's property as well as others adjacent to it. How many people want to purchase a home with a pool in the front yard? Not many and those who would, probably would pay no more than the value of the home; pool or no pool. The neighbors across the street would be affected also. I know many people including myself would not like a home across from a front yard pool with only a 4' fence all the way around the front and side and if they have children would be deathly afraid of them drowning. Also, ground mounted solar panels are an invitation to curious children who may get injured by them not to mention being an eye sore in a residential area. Solar in residential is meant to be mounted to the roof of homes not the yard. The Juneman's indicated at the planning board hearing solar panels cannot be installed

on a HIP roof and that is totally false for they exist all over the country(photo attached). Another issue is the right-a-way parking with a fence butted up to the property line and bushes and shrubs being planted will force landscaping vehicles to park mostly in traffic lanes which is already a problem on Venice Island. We have many pedestrians with children, baby carriages, walking dogs and my own children would be at risk of being hit at the blind spots of vehicles parked on Verdi or Beach Park Blvd in front of the Juneman's property endangering those people. There are many drivers whom drive up and down Beach Park and do not adhere to the 25 MPH speed limit and if their line of vision is restricted as will be the case an accident in the making is on the horizon. Also many neighbors who have family gatherings and parties use those right-a-ways to park and at times half the road will be lined with vehicles.

I have researched the Venice island area and have found only three front yard pools, none of which are on a busy intersection road but are on dead end streets with little or no traffic and pedestrians. But even them I would have a safety concern when it comes to children. Venice is a resort town with many tourists and snowbirds bring their children and grandchildren to enjoy our beautiful way of life so it is the responsibility of our city officials as well as those who live here year round to insure we protect all children and our city's reputation. I would think the owners and the city would be concerned about legal ramifications in the event a drowning would occur because of owner negligence and or irresponsible approval by city officials.

In the Venice Gondolier Sun I read where Pamela Rathmell a neighbor of the Juneman's said and I quote: "I don't think this will do anything but improve the looks of the neighborhood", "She (Juneman) is a designer. She knows what she is doing". Unquote. How obtuse can one be making such a claim a person is a designer and knows what they are doing. I'm sure she did a wonderful job remodeling the inside of her home but her pool design no matter how rosey it may seem has nothing to do with the reality of the dangers and how other neighbors FEEL about the proposal. Ask a child if they care how a yard is designed and if it will keep them from entering the premises, in fact the more beautiful it may appear the more likely the child will want to enter into it. The neighbors who understand such dangers are the ones who object to it and I should think the city council, some of which have children & grandchildren, will see it in the same light because they know what they are doing and what is best for the overall community and not just what one or two people feel is their right to enjoy their property as they deem fit regardless of right-a-way rules and dangers to others. Also if approved it would set a precedent for others with similar lots to do the same then how would the neighborhood look and how many children would be at risk?

On October 30, I went to the residence of Mrs. Juneman to voice my concerns for the safety of my children and others children and to show her a proposal for an alternative lap pool plan for the rear of her home. Her reply was, "She had already had an approval back in 2015 when she first purchased the home but was told later it would have to pass the approval of the local planning board and concerned residents would have an opportunity to contest it". I asked her if she would consider putting a lap pool in the back yard and she said, "It couldn't

be done because there was a sewer line 5 foot from the house and she wasn't going to pay to have it moved". I suggested to her; Pool Companies are plumbers also and would more likely not charge her to move the sewer line closer along the house being they have to excavate for the pool anyway. She went on and said, "So you think we should do your pool and not the one we want". To that I replied; "what I want or what you want is not the real issue, the issue lies with the safety factor for children and neighbors objections for the pool and solar panels being placed along a mainstream road and accessing the right-of-way". I also told Mrs. Juneman I am sure she is a nice person and asked her what would she do if a child were to climb over her fence and drowned? After careful thought she replied and I quote, "I couldn't live with myself" Unquote.. I asked her to hold that thought for a moment and asked her knowing that feeling do you really want to risk such a thing happening and ruin your life or wouldn't it be better to ease your mind and redesign you a lap pool for the back yard with a cage and a six foot high fence. With that she went out on a tangent again speaking of how she will meet all Florida rules to putting a four foot high fence with latched gate and she said the fence would be wrought iron and would be difficult for children to climb over. I told her that was not true that I have a video of a two year old in diapers climbing a five foot wrought iron fence and opening the gate(attached video). Her response to that was well some child could open your front door and enter into your pool from inside your house or they could cut the screen to get in. I told her that is a very unfair comparison and you never read of any drownings which happen in the manner you speak of but in fact there are hundreds of drownings annually worldwide from children who climbed fences or unlatch gates to get access to the pool. I told her about my pool and the incident with my son and she mentioned to me the sliding door to my pool, according to Florida Law, must have a latch high enough for a child not to reach it which would be five to six feet. With that I said how are you going to prevent a child climbing up on your gate and unlatching it to gain access and she said it would be locked. I said, "How about the climbing over factor" and then she insisted that many of the homes in this area were not caged to which I replied that is untrue, in fact every home in Beach Park is caged and fenced. With that she said her husband would be home soon if I would like to discuss the matter with him so I gave her a copy of my alternative pool plan for the rear of her home and told her I would be attending the meeting on November 14 to strongly object and she said she understood my concern but she intends to pursue her original plan. With that I told her to have a nice night and left.

*NOTE: During our conversation she mentioned she had lived in Orlando, FL., where she had lived in several other homes and installed uncaged pools during that time so it dawned on me; perhaps if that is true her and her husband are in the habit of buying homes, remodeling them, then flipping them for a profit and if that is the case they would not be concerned with neighbors concerns or establishing long term relationships.*

I will be attending the November 14 City Council Meeting and will submit a packet for the Mayor and each Council Member with an Alternative Proposal for the pool which perhaps the owners and the city may consider. I will also submit photos, a video and news articles to substantiate my negative claims about the current pool proposal.

I pray once the Council hear from all concerned citizens and realize *a child's life is far more precious than an unsafe designers vision of home improvement*, they will reverse the findings of the planning board and give the Juneman's an alternative recommendation for their pool and solar panels to be moved to the rear and roof of the home where, according to site plan, a 10'x40' lap pool could easily be installed with screened cage and six foot high fence with solar heating panels mounted to the roof. Pool pump/filter/electric heater could be installed at the north side of the home next to the garage or some other compromise by the City which would appease all concerned.

*NOTE: I inquired a local solar specialist and was told they can install on any kind of roof including HIP roofs.*

Sincerely,

Ronald Springman  
14 year resident of Venice

Attachments – 30 second video of two year old in diapers climbing five foot fence and opening it. A photo and brief description of placing a 10x40' lap pool in rear.  
Photo of solar panels on a hip roof similar to the Juneman's home.







**ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL FOR JUNESMANS POOL**  
**@ 422 BEACH PARK BLVD, VENICE, FL. 34228**

Author: Ronald Springman a concerned citizen

Considering the limited space in the rear, there is north of the rear patio a long space of 15'X 40'+ available. Even with the sewer line a 10' to 12' wide pool is possible with 3' to 5' of pavers along the home with the long edge of pool butted up to a 6' brick/wood fence. They can cage the pool to keep children, mosquitoes and debris out. The solar heater can be mounted on the roof and the pool pump/filter/electric heater installed on the north side of the home.



More home design ideas on [HOMEDESIGNLOVER.COM](http://HOMEDESIGNLOVER.COM)

As you can see above the lap pool is a 40'x10' exercise pool that allow people to get the full health benefits of a vigorous swimming regimen without having to invest the time, money and space into a full size pool. The Juneman's claim they are too tall and need a longer pool for lap swimming so the rear is much better than the front where they call for only 32' pool. Not only is the rear better for lap swimming it will also appreciate the property instead of potentially depreciating it and nearby properties. How many people will buy a home with a front yard pool or a home directly across from a front pool? Not many including me! Location is the most essential factor to consider when choosing a pool for as it needs to be located in an area that will allow a private stable environment away from mainstream traffic including pedestrians.

Bottom line the SAFETY factor for keeping children safe far outweighs all other reasons for not putting a pool & solar panels in front of the home. Every year children climb over fences 4 to 6 feet and are injured or drown in pools.

Legal ramifications should also be considered should a drowning occur as a result of owner negligence and or irresponsible approval by city officials.



**From:** Ronnielee Springman [<mailto:ronnieleespringman@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, November 06, 2017 5:22 AM

**To:** Lori Stelzer <[LStelzer@Venicegov.com](mailto:LStelzer@Venicegov.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Letter for Mayor Holic, City Council, City Manager, City Attorney & City Clerk

Hi Lori,

Here are several news articles on toddlers climbing fences in drowning. One just happened this year in Naples, Fl. and there was a near drowning right here in Venice not long ago..How many children must die as a result of insufficient regulations by State and Local Ordinances..

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/06/mother\\_of\\_union\\_boys\\_who\\_drown.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/06/mother_of_union_boys_who_drown.html)

# Mother of Union boys who drowned says they were in house playing and watching TV before she fell asleep

By Star-Ledger Staff

on June 29, 2012 at 2:00 PM, updated June 30, 2012 at 7:57 AM

Gallery: Two boys drown in pool accident

By [Julia Terruso](#) and [Tomas Dinges](#)/The Star-Ledger

**UNION** — Photographs of Kendell and Kenley Francois, two young Union Township brothers, are affixed to a window outside the family home on Amherst Avenue this morning.

The photos are a humble memorial to Kendell, 3, and Kenley, 5, both of whom [drowned Thursday evening in a neighbor's pool](#).

The boys apparently climbed over a 4-foot high fence and got in a pool in a next-door neighbor's yard, according to initial findings by the Union County Prosecutor's Office. The two were found at the bottom of the pool shortly after 7 p.m. by township police.

"We were all in the house relaxing and playing," the boys' mother, Guerdine Francois, said from inside the family home this morning. "They were watching TV. I fell asleep and when I jumped up, I screamed."

She then broke down in heavy wails as more family members arrived to the house.

Two police officers, called to the house after Francois could not find the boys, jumped into the pool, pulled the boys out from the deep end and started CPR. The boys were taken to Overlook Medical Center in Summit, where they were pronounced dead at 8:17 p.m.

It is still unclear how long they had been in the pool or away from adult supervision. In a late evening press conference at the scene, Prosecutor Theodore Romankow said foul play is not suspected but that a standard investigation is under way.

"Anytime there's a pool accident, you have to look into if there's any neglect by anyone," he said.

About a half-hour before the incident, the owner of the Parkside Drive home had been doing some work on the pool, township police Director Dan Zieser said. The resident went inside and didn't see the children enter his yard, he said.

The neighbor only realized something was wrong when he heard a commotion in his yard, he said.

The prosecutor's homicide task force, which regularly reviews cases of unattended deaths, will be handling the investigation, a statement this morning from Romankow's office said. An autopsy is scheduled for this morning. Detectives continue to take statements and collect and examine evidence, the statement said.

The boys' drowning was the fourth such incident this month involving young children in New Jersey.

Bridgeton police and the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office are investigating the [drowning death of an 8-month-old baby](#) in a Bridgeton apartment Wednesday night. On June 19, [a 7-year-old girl, Fieona Edwards](#), drowned in a pool in her New Brunswick neighborhood. On June 9, [a 4-year-old boy was found unconscious](#) at the bottom of his family's swimming pool in the Bergen County town of Westwood and was hospitalized in critical condition.

### **Related coverage:**

- [Double drowning: 2 children found at bottom of neighbor's pool in Union](#)



<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/26/nyregion/a-drowned-boys-family-reels-after-his-death-in-staten-island.html>

## ***Drowned Boy, 3, Climbed Fence to Get Into a Pool***

**By MARC SANTORA and NATE SCHWEBER** JULY 25, 2014

Elizabeth Johnson Battipaglia, grandmother of 3-year-old Edward Harris, who died on Thursday. Credit Robert Stolarik for The New York Times

Edward Harris loved his plastic wading pool.

Every chance he got, Edward, 3, would rip off his clothes and jump into a 10-inch-deep little lagoon that was set up in his family's front yard on Staten Island.

His family believes that his love of that little pool is what led him on Thursday to a much bigger pool behind the day care center where his mother worked and where he spent his days.

The boy slipped the attention of his step-grandfather, his mother and the other workers at the center and scampered away, over a fence and into an aboveground pool behind the Mother Byrd Group Family Daycare in Mariners Harbor.

It was only a momentary lapse of attention, but it was a moment too long. His mother, Maria Johnson, was the first to see Edward, floating face down in the pool, and she leapt in and dragged him out. He was unconscious and died a short time later.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/06/20/twin-brothers-drown/86130562/>

## 3-year-old dies a day after his twin brother drowns

USA TODAY Mike Ellis, Anderson (S.C.) Independent-Mail Published 8:08 a.m. ET June 20, 2016 | Updated 10:40 a.m. ET June 20, 2016



(Photo: Anderson (S.C.) Independent-Mail)

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ANDERSON, S.C. — A 3-year-old boy died a day after he was [found in the bottom of a backyard swimming pool](#) with his twin brother, the Anderson County Coroner's Office said.

The first toddler, Caleb Marcengill of Westminster, S.C., was pronounced dead Saturday afternoon after arriving at Greenville Memorial Hospital, said the county's deputy coroner, Don McCown. His brother, Ezekiel Marcengill had been on life support and died Sunday afternoon.

Their deaths were ruled accidental drownings, according to the coroner's office.

The boys and their family attended a social gathering Saturday at a residence Easley, S.C. After lunch at about 12:30 p.m. ET, a group of children went outside to play, McCown said.

Deputies and emergency medical personnel responded at about 2:20 p.m. after the twins' older sister found them under water. The boys likely were submerged for 15 to 20 minutes, McCown said.

Family members attempted cardio-pulmonary resuscitation until authorities arrived. Caleb was pronounced dead at 3:21 p.m. Saturday; Ezekiel died about 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Their father, Brandon Marcengill, urged everyone to hug their loved ones.

"Hold them tight," he said Sunday. "You protect your kids as best as you can. They reach an age where they can run around and play. How do you defend against everything?"

A key was needed to unlock the gate for access to the above-ground pool. The boys' older sister used the key when she found her siblings.

The twins apparently crawled under the fence or possibly CLIMBED over it, McCown said.

"There's a pretty good gap on one side of the fence and pretty much an adult could've crawled under it," he said. The pool was 4 feet deep, and the water level was at 3 feet, 8 inches.

The family told authorities the boys were just learning how to swim. They previously had used swim aids when in water, McCown said.

*Contributing: Romando Dixon, [The Greenville \(S.C.\) News](#). Follow Mike Ellis on Twitter: @MikeEllis\_AIM*



# NAPLES DROWNING

JULY 2017

<http://www.nbc-2.com/story/35805429/autistic-4-year-old-drowns-in-neighbors-pool>

## 4-year-old with autism drowns in neighbor's pool

Posted: Jul 03, 2017 7:36 PM EDT Updated: Jul 05, 2017 1:11 PM EDT  
By Devin Turk, Reporter

COLLIER COUNTY, Fla. -

An East Naples family is mourning the loss of their daughter after she was found dead in her neighbor's pool Monday evening.

Her brother describes four-year-old Saijene as someone who was always happy and excited, but most of all loved her family.

"She made our life....it hurts because she was our everything," Julens Alexis

The call came just after 6 p.m. from a home in the 100 block of 5th Street – about five miles southeast of Naples Botanical Garden and west of US-41.

"When I was coming up I see the cars, cop cars, and yellow lines and I just broke down. I knew something happened, and I found out my sister had died," recalled Alexis of the response.

Alexis said the toddler was put in bed but must have opened the front door and CLIMBED the fence to their neighbor's backyard. Alexis said the girl is on the autism spectrum.

"She likes water, but she can't swim, so we think she probably was just trying to get in the water. She didn't know any better," said Julens Alexis.

The death is hitting her mother the hardest.

"We have three brothers. We didn't have any sisters, so she completed us and were going to miss her," said Alexis.

Prayers are keeping them going, but they don't have money for a funeral because it's so sudden. They're hoping the community will help.

"I just hope she ends up in a better place now," said Alexis.

Approximately 350 children die per year because of drowning in the United States. It's the leading cause of death for children 1-4 years old in Collier County.

**A GoFundMe has been set up to assist the family with funeral expenses. [CLICK HERE](#) if you would like to help.**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2111591/Indiana-Ashton-Fearless-toddler-scaled-SEVEN-FOOT-fence-escape-nursery.html>

## Indiana Ashton: Fearless toddler scaled SEVEN FOOT fence to escape from nursery

- **Toddler climbed over two fences, including one with anti-theft spikes on top, as he wanted to find his mother**
- **School did not notice he was missing until member of public found him sitting on road-side**

By [Eddie Wrenn for MailOnline](#)

UPDATED: 11:05 EDT, 7 March 2012



Intrepid explorer: Little Ashton Addison, age three, scaled the seven-foot fence at Drakies Nursery, near Inverness, in his bid for freedom

A three-year-old toddler scaled a seven-foot-high spiked metal fence in an incredible bid for freedom.

Ashton Addison wanted to escape from his nursery and find his mother.

So he climbed over a small fence, scurried across the garden at Drakies Nursery in Inverness, and somehow managed to climb up the seven-foot fence, over the spikes, and then down the other side.

Amazingly the mini-Indiana Jones wannabe suffered no injuries other than a scratch to his hand, and he was found sitting on the pavement by a woman walking her dog.

The nursery had not even noticed their intrepid explorer's escape due to a mix-up with the school register.

Ashton's shocked mother, Lisa Mackenzie, 23, of Inshes, Inverness, said she was relieved Ashton had been returned home to her in one piece.

She said: 'I'm just so grateful he is alright in one piece and I'm also so relieved that a kind caring person picked him up, and took him back to the school.'

'It could have been so much worse, just thinking about the fence itself.'

Ashton went missing after a headcount of the children became confused, following the arrival of a new child who had recently joined the nursery but not yet added to the register.

Lisa was told by the school Ashton somehow managed to leave the classroom itself and climb over the fence at around 2pm.

Lisa said: 'The fence is always closed to prevent children from leaving the school. I was so shocked yesterday to find out Ashton had managed to climb the fence.'

'The fence itself is around seven feet, and has spikes on top. I still can't believe he managed to climb it.'

'The situation could have been a lot worse just with the fence itself, he could have fallen off it or injured himself on the spikes.'

'But he is a really clever little boy, and is really switched on, so it would make sense in that situation, he would go to the place where I drop him off and pick him up, and try and get back to me.'





Indiana Jones Junior: Little Ashton took a practice run on the smaller nursery fence, and then skillfully - if dangerously - tackled the main fence

Despite her relief at Ashton being found safe and well, the mother, who also has a one-year-old daughter Heidi, said she's concerned the incident happened at all.

She is also concerned that staff hadn't realised he was missing - and hadn't called immediately to explain what had happened.

Ashton went missing at 2pm, and was found at about 2.10pm. But Lisa knew nothing of the drama until she arrived to pick him up at 2.45pm.

She said: 'When I was told what happened I burst out crying, just all the "what ifs" run through your mind. I was in total shock.

'I'm disappointed and devastated it has happened to begin with. It would have been awful to return to the school and Ashton not to be there, which is what could have happened if the woman hadn't found him.

'I really wanted my kids to go to Drakies Primary School because many of my family members, who have all done really well went to Drakies and I know what a good school it is.' Lisa, whose partner Gary is currently working offshore, said she has been assured by the school it will tighten safety measures to prevent the situation from happening again.

She said: 'The head teacher was very, very apologetic and I do take the apologies on board.

'She told me extra safety measures including the fact that a new child has to be added to the register straight away are being implemented now.

'The nursery are also going to do more "stranger danger" work with the kids, including pictures to try and help them to understand not to run away.

'They are also advising the Care Commission of what has happened, and I will write a letter to them myself.

'I just hope by having the meeting with the school, that things will change and other parents won't ever have to go through what I've gone through.'

But Lisa expressed disappointment at the school for not telephoning her immediately after the incident.

She said: 'I was only told about what happened when I came to pick Ashton up at 2.45pm. I just wanted to hold him and know that he was safe, and the school should have phoned me in the first place.

'But I spoke to them about this issue and they have apologised. I think they were just so shocked that he managed to escape in the first place.

'I kept Ashton off nursery on the Tuesday and I am in talks with the school about whether he will go back at the moment. But if he does, the school says an extra eye will be on Ashton.'

A spokesperson for the Highland Council said: 'On Monday afternoon a member of the public found a child from Drakies Nursery walking along the road after apparently climbing a small fence around the nursery and then climbing a secure 7ft mesh fence to leave the school grounds.

'The head teacher has had a meeting with the child's mother to discuss what happened and is carrying out a thorough investigation which will be reported to the Care Commission.

'In the meantime, the school has taken immediate action to ensure additional safeguards to those that are already in place.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2111591/Indiana-Ashton-Fearless-toddler-scaled-SEVEN-FOOT-fenceescapenursery.html#ixzz4uuaxVpC2>

### Child Nearly Drowns In Venice | SNN TV

[www.snntv.com/2017/06/13/child-nearly-drowns-venice/](http://www.snntv.com/2017/06/13/child-nearly-drowns-venice/)

1. Jun 13, 2017 - The **Venice** Fire Department says they received an emergency call just after four in the afternoon on Tuesday on Villas Drive. A four year old girl ...

### Child In Critical Condition After Near Drowning | SNN TV

[www.snntv.com/2017/04/06/child-critical-condition-near-drowning/](http://www.snntv.com/2017/04/06/child-critical-condition-near-drowning/)

1. Apr 6, 2017 - In Sarasota County, a 4 year old is in critical condition after a near **drowning**. The **child** was flown by Bayflight to John's Hopkins All **Children's** ...

### Venice: Child nearly drowns in pool | TheUncensoredReport.com

<https://www.thescoopradioshow.com/venice-child-nearly-drowns-in-pool/>

1. Jun 13, 2017 - Venice: **Child nearly drowns** in pool ... Venice: **Child nearly drowns** in pool ... **Venice,Florida** Municipal Government ...

### Toddler drowns in pool in Venice | WFLA.com

[wfla.com/2015/08/08/toddler-drowns-in-pool-in-venice/](http://wfla.com/2015/08/08/toddler-drowns-in-pool-in-venice/)

- 1.
2. Aug 8, 2015 - A 21-month-old girl died after **drowning** in a family pool in **Venice**, ... SARASOTA COUNTY,FL (WFLA) – A 21-month-old girl died after ... There were two other **children** in the home, a 6-year-old and a 4-year-old. ... Locate **Almost** Anyone By Entering Their NameBeenVerified People Search Subscription.

### Toddler in critical condition after near-drowning experience in ...

[www.mysuncoast.com/...drowning.../article\\_96d85786-0b0f-11e7-b1fa-9f0ae3c5c0c...](http://www.mysuncoast.com/...drowning.../article_96d85786-0b0f-11e7-b1fa-9f0ae3c5c0c...)

1. Mar 17, 2017 - LAKEWOOD RANCH, **Fla** (WWSB) -- The Manatee County Sheriff's Office ... The **child** was transported to a local hospital in critical condition.

**From:** Ronnielee Springman [<mailto:ronnieleespringman@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 07, 2017 7:18 AM

**To:** Lori Stelzer <[LStelzer@Venicegov.com](mailto:LStelzer@Venicegov.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Letter for Mayor Holic, City Council, City Manager, City Attorney & City Clerk

Good Morning Lori,

Attached is another letter for the City Council. Please see to it they get a copy of it prior to the next Council Meeting.

Have A Wonderful Day,

Ron Springman



**Letter to City of Venice,**

**November 7, 2017**

**Mayor - John Holic  
Vice Mayor – Richard Cautero  
Council Member - Kit McKeon  
Council Member - Bob Daniels  
Council Member - Fred Fraize  
Council Member – Jeanette Gates  
Council Member – Deborah Anderson  
City Manager – Edward F. Lavallee  
City Attorney – David Persson  
City Clerk – Lori Stelzer**

**RE: VARIANCE PETITION NO. 17-03VZ**

**Dear Mayor Holic, City Council Members, City Manager, City Attorney & City Clerk,**

**Yesterday, it was brought to my attention by other concerned citizens on the above Variance the Juneman's have come up with a compromise to their pool and solar panel plan and that once the Juneman's put it in writing Mrs. Schriber will withdraw her appeal. The plan will require the Juneman's to place the solar panels on the top of the roof, the proposed fence will be raised from 48 inches to 54 inches, the pool will have a fastened down solid cover which can be actually walked on and the gate to the area will have a coded entry with alarms. The side of the home will no longer be fenced and will be landscaped instead.**

**Even with this improved compromise I still feel the safeguards are not enough to guarantee the safety of a child who still could easily scale a 54 inch vertically barred fence and find a way into the pool or if the owners were to leave it uncovered which is more likely to happen than not. Also, should the owners decide to flip the home the new owners would not have to honor the written agreement of the Juneman's. Therefore, I hope during the next Council meeting it will be considered to put a hold on a pool permit issuance and consider having the city recommend to the Juneman's to reconsider their position by placing a 10x40' lap pool to the rear of the home with a six foot wood fence instead which a child could not easily climb.**

**I will respect the findings of the City Council whichever way they decide and only hope if the compromised plan is approved my children or some other child is not the next unfortunate statistic in an ever growing problem throughout the country.**

**I also feel the city should carefully consider having the city codes rewritten on the installation of any future pool to have a smooth fenced barrier of at least six feet and or a screened in cage with childproof latched locks on the doors. Also have restrictions of a pool being installed in the front of any home which would detract from the ambience of adjoining properties. *NOTE:***

***I don't think the city would ever allow any of the new HOA sanctioned homes near downtown to place a pool in the front yard.***

**In closing, I would like to add, I think the city has done some very wonderful things to improve the beauty and quality of life in the Venice city limits and hope they will continue to make all Venetians proud of their little city on the Gulf.**

**Have A Wonderful Day,**

**Sincerely,**

**Ronald Springman**

**433 Beach Park Blvd  
Venice, Fl.  
Tel: 941-484-4091**