

**From:** [nick pecora](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Ron Feinsod](#); [Lori Stelzer](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting - Proposed Hotel Jan. 14 2020  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2020 7:36:53 PM

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City Council Members-

Congratulations on your recent victories, and becoming our newest Elected City Council Members. I am confident each of you was selected by the Voters here in the City of Venice, as we have the most confidence in you, to listen to its people, and make decisions in our best interest, with our demonstrated desires.

My name is Nicholas Pecora, resident of Venice Island on Guild Drive. I write to you as a resident since 1996, having returned after College in 2009. I've come to love the lifestyle here in Venice compared to many other major cities, and surrounding areas I could choose as a 35 year old Man; this is why my Wife and I have purchased our second home in Venice, here on Venice Island.

This letter is in reference, and against, the PROPOSED SHERATON HOTEL PROPERTY ON U.S. 41, on Venice Island.

Firstly: I have been happy to see the City Planning Commission holds its ground and promises by not allowing the requested Hotel HEIGHT exemption to pass. I believe this is the 3rd time they have not received approval for such request? As it should, these height restrictions have been established for good reason, voted on by this community, and to bend those rules now would show an EXTREME DISLOYALTY to the persons whom elected those decision makers.

As you are probably aware, my home backs up to the vacant property of the proposed Hotel. 2 years ago my Wife and I decided to invest in such a beautiful location, and made what was a sad, 1968 property, no better than a low-income rental, into a beautiful home, that compliments the evolving neighborhood, and the many other new-build and renovated homes in this part of the Island.

During the time of our renovation, did we ask for any SPECIAL ACCEPTIONS? Did we ask to put a 45 foot structure in the backyard... a giant Ferris-Wheel for the people of the neighborhood to enjoy? Did we request anything special with the boundaries of our Property, or the height of our Fence? WE DID NOT... because we understand Zoning and Planning wouldn't allow it, it's not within reason for us to do so, and it's just plain part of the rules of being a kind neighbor.

So here we are, we've invested hundreds-of-thousands of dollars to beautify this home, in your lovely City, and make life here... pay our taxes to support great programs in the area, along with City Employees and Elected Officials. We cannot be allowed any special treatment, and bend any rules; so please be sure to treat OUTSIDE, SPECIAL INTEREST DEVELOPERS, the same-way we would consider requests from the Cities own residents.

Secondly: One of the worst things I can think about and hope you account for when considering any plans this hotel has is the traffic; traffic on 41, and traffic in the surrounding neighborhood.

According to a research group the hotel hired, the traffic study said there would be no negative impact? I just can't buy that. Was this done during season? During school year? In the mornings when the school line backs up to the Hospital? During Season when getting on and off ANY bridge on the Island is difficult.

We live on a parallel street to U.S. 41, and experience a HEAVY flow of cars in the mornings and afternoons, when school is letting in and out. We experience on Guild Drive the occasional business semi or work vehicle leaving the local Publix retailers, circumventing the 'no-light' turns onto 41, to gain access to a light at Avenida Del Circo.

My point is that to add a 103 room hotel next to a neighborhood that already sees thru traffic is a very unsafe idea. What is going to happen to all of the delivery vehicles that need to get into and out of the Hotel (semis)... they are going to take the back roads to skip 41 traffic.... that means coming down Guild and Golf Drive.

Where is the access point for this hotel to receive goods? It's in the back of the Hotel... which abuts my Property, along with several other. So my Family and I would have to here delivery trucks coming and going when? 6am...9am...5pm...7pm? Trash trucks? US Foods? Budweiser?

What about when the Restaurant employees are done working... they close about 9pm... start dumping their trash and bottles around 10pm in the dumpsters out back? They have a few cigarettes? Chit-chat and make a little noise? Maybe play some music in their cars while hosing the kitchen mats at 11pm?

I haven't even mentioned the construction; how bad will the traffic be when there are 100s of work vehicles? Major cranes dangling over our homes out back... over U.S. 41? Where is all of the dirt, dust, and debris going to float off too? My backyard... my neighbors. Where are all of the workers going to park at? What time of day will they start construction? 6am... 8am...should really cause a traffic problem once school traffic starts between 6-8am. What time will construction be done? 5pm, 7pm... during dinner time with my Family... 8:30pm during Summer when the sun is still out.... 12 noon while I'm on a work conference call? When my child is outback trying to play? What is something goes wrong during construction and they damage our power lines, sewer lines, water lines.... what if the construction tremors damage my newly renovated homes foundation?

Outside of the huge construction nightmare, Third: Privacy! Safety!

How could this developer truly believe a 4 story, 54 foot hotel could mesh with the neighborhood, and not be a total invasion of privacy? How could they guarantee that being able to look directly down into my home, the neighbors homes, wouldn't cause a privacy and security issue. There are more mentally sick people in the world now than ever, and nobody can say what creeps might find it advantageous to use this hotel as a great place to case out homes in the area. The sheer amount of wall and 50 feet palm trees that would be required to TRULY make the vision line zero would be outrageous... and I just don't see how it could be allowed.

PRIVATE NUISANCE- The development of such a large structure, although it is a privately owned Property, if allowed to exceed City height limitations and regulations, would be considered a PRIVATE NUISANCE to the Residents with which is removes the Privacy and right to the use and enjoyment of life or property.

The Privacy and enjoyment of my property, the backyard, and its location would forever be ruined, and undesirable. The investment in this home and community would be damaged permanently, and the loss would be unrecoverable. The DIMINISHED VALUE of the Property would be evident by the limited buyer... if we would ever want to sell this home, it would drastically be damaged by the presence of this hotel. Very little people would want to live with a huge business resting on top of their Property, and the terrible thoughts of strangers looking into their windows.... this would be a financially devastating move for these properties.

I have confidence in the Council Members. I have confidence that you realize there is already a large hotel going into the old circus property (although plans not approved, a lease and FAA has been)... so why do we need another down the street. There is one new one already just off the island up Bus

41... so why do we need another on the Island. There is another new one being built at Jacaranda by the Wawa... So why do we need another one.... there is a VACANT one on Avenida Del Circo... so why do we need another one.

I have confidence that you agree the VERY SMALL amount of persons that the Hotel organized Community Outreach quoted (which in 2 years they have never contacted us.. go figure) said want the hotel... is a speck of the number of people who DO NOT want this project. I trust that you will do the right thing, and follow the wishes of this community; that is to not allow ANY height exceptions!

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**Nick Pecora**

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**From:** [Linda Sroka](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Lori Stelzer](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed hotel at Pinebrook and Tamiami (US 41)  
**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 6:20:06 PM

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Hello,

I am unable to attend the public meeting on the 14th, but wanted to make my position perfectly clear. Common sense alone should tell you all that this is an inappropriate location for a hotel. With plans to put one in at the old circus grounds by the airport, Venice Island DOES NOT need another. There are already two other hotels in very close proximity to the island. The traffic on the island is already horrible and this proposed hotel would literally be in the neighbors back yard.

Please do the right thing and vote this down.

Linda Serbay-Sroka