

Citizens Not Serfs

“Together We Can Save the Keys”



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County Commission Unanimously Rejects Damaging Proposals

At the June 16th Monroe County Commissioner's Meeting, the commission unanimously rejected both of the damaging downstairs enclosure policy proposals that would have damaged and intimidated our working class and extended the poor treatment that has existed since the beginning of the devastating pilot program.

Law Fellow John November addressed the commission and explained how the 1316 policy proposal unfairly targeted those homeowners with mortgages by threatening the loss of flood insurance without an impartial hearing and how the 7 year sham amnesty would effectively guarantee the continuation of the unanimously unpopular building permit inspection program. Commissioner Mario Di Gennaro almost immediately made a strong motion to completely reject both of these proposals. Commissioner Neugent seconded this motion and the remainder of the commission then unanimously agreed.

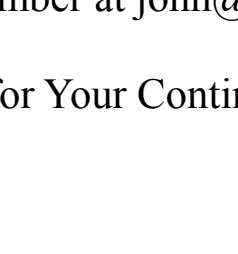
This victory for Citizens Not Serfs is another step in the mission to end the inequitable treatment that has occurred in unincorporated Monroe County since the beginning of the pilot. Our organization truly appreciates all of our members who showed up to the meeting to demonstrate their support.

A major step in this transition towards fair treatment will be the end of the pilot this November, when the final notice of the requirement for an inspection is released to FEMA by the county. At the meeting Monroe County's Growth management Director Christine Hurley concurred that the last notice would be released in November. After November, the responsibility to perform inspections will become a local undertaking and the federal government's intrusion into our local floodplain management can end and fairer policies can emerge.

The end of the Pilot will also allow our county to revitalize our county's image and reputation that has unfairly mischaracterized us as being an "outlaw" county. Fortunately, the fact that we have one of the strictest building and floodplain management ordinances in the nation and the fact that we have lost only one life in a hurricane in the past 64 years are strong facts that provide support for the revitalization of our image. The commission's realization that there may also need to be changes made within the staff to reflect this need for new policy direction towards fairness and image revitalization is also appreciated.

Equally importantly, the commission seems to finally be willing to take control over how we can best end this pilot and its devastating unintended consequences. Our organization's conviction to point out both FEMA and the county staff's unforgiveable error in not bringing the major policy decision concerning the extension of the pilot to the commission seems to have fortified the fact that the staff can no longer be in control of our downstairs enclosure policy destiny. Our organization hopes that this trend of commissioners taking control of our citizen's desperate request for relief continues.

Although our organization's fight to end these unfair intrusive policies is sure to continue, at least now there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel.



For More Information go to: CitizensNotSerfs.com

or email John November at john@citizensnotserfs.com

Thank You for Your Continued Support!