



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

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June 16, 2023

Commission Chairman, Brian Hamman
 Commission Vice Chairman, Mike Greenwell
 Commissioner Cecil L. Pendergrass
 Commissioner Kevin Ruane
 Commissioner Ray Sandelli
 Lee County Board of County Commissioners
 2120 Main Street
 Fort Myers, FL 33901

Sent via email and USPS

Re: **Proposed Amendments to Chapters 30, 33, and 34 of the Lee County LDC**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Lee County Commission:

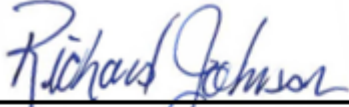
On Jun 14, 2023, the Sanibel City Council held a special meeting to discuss the proposed amendments to Chapters 30, 33 and 34 of the Lee County Land Development Code (LDC), which were first presented to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on June 6, 2023 and which are scheduled before the BOCC for public hearing on June 20, 2023. As you may know, the City invited Lee County staff to present a summary of the proposed LDC amendments; however, the County Manager declined our invitation.

There were 115 persons in attendance (excluding City Council and staff) and 245 independent viewers on the City's Facebook Live broadcast, for a total of 360 attendees and viewers. There were 14 public speakers who identified themselves as residents of Sanibel or Captiva, or as a leader of a Sanibel/Captiva organization. Notably, there were no comments in opposition to the general notion of increasing resiliency, which the City Council understood to be the original premise for the proposed LDC changes. However, there was universal opposition to the LDC amendments, as proposed, as they far exceed any aim of resiliency by also facilitating increased intensity of use throughout Captiva and facilitating potential increased density and perhaps vulnerability within South Seas Island Resort, in contravention of resiliency aims and the current Comprehensive Plans for both Captiva and Sanibel. The City Council is concerned that the proposed LDC amendments, if approved, will negatively impact Sanibel by increasing traffic congestion, increasing evacuation times, and put at risk the partnership between Sanibel and Lee County to develop a central sewer system on Captiva Island.

After hearing public comment and further discussion amongst City Councilmembers, the City Council voted unanimously to request the BOCC reject the proposed amendments to the Lee County Land Development Code that were presented at the June 6, 2023 BOCC meeting and which are scheduled for a Public Hearing at the June 20, 2023 BOCC meeting, as well as to reject the proposed amendments to the Lee County Comprehensive Plan scheduled to be heard at a June 21, 2023 BOCC's Zoning and Comprehensive Plan Amendment Hearing. The City Council saw no value in simply postponing the Public Hearing because City Councilmembers believe the proposed amendments increase vulnerability instead of improving resiliency and believe the potential increases in density and intensity will threaten the current quality of life on Sanibel.

This letter memorializes the City Council's unanimously approved motion and formally conveys its request that the BOCC reject the subject LDC amendments set for hearing on June 20, 2023, as well as reject the subject Plan amendments set for hearing on June 21, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard Johnson, Mayor


Mike Miller, Vice Mayor


Dr. Scott Crater, Councilmember


John Henshaw, Councilmember


Holly D. Smith, Councilmember