



Captiva Island Fire Control District

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Board of Fire Commissioners

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Fire Chief

June 13, 2023

Commissioner Kevin Ruane
Lee County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398

Re: Proposed Changes to the LDC

Dear Commissioner Ruane,

We have been made aware that the you are considering potential changes to the LDC in Lee County that will modify building heights and density on Captiva, and would like to provide you with the expected financial impacts to the Captiva Island Fire District. This letter should not be viewed as either support for or objection to the proposed changes, but rather what the financial impacts to the Fire District would be.

If the proposed changes to building heights were to be approved, the Fire District would not be properly equipped to serve the needs of the island. If building heights were to be increased from 28 to 35 feet and constructed up to 4' above FEMA base flood elevations, our current ground ladders and fire flow would not be sufficient to provide a rescue and fire protection to the upper floors of a building. These taller structures would require the Fire District to purchase a ladder truck at a cost to Captiva property owners of \$1.65 million dollars.

If more housing units are allowed as a result of changes to the code, our staff will also need to be increased. We currently operate with 4 personnel per shift, and prior to Ian responded to an average of 50 calls per month, which had increased 50% from prior years as a result of more rental homes and tourists on the island. Additional housing units and larger homes will bring more visitors to the island, which will correlate to increased call volume. If we are required to add just 1 person per shift, our budget would need to be increased by 8-10%.

We would like these factors to be considered when making your decision to allow for the proposed amendments to the LDC. The District is committed to serving the needs of the island, and will adjust our staffing and resources to meet those needs. However, there will be a significant financial impact to island property owners.

Sincerely,

Sherrill Sims, Commissioner Seat 1
Carole Campbell, Commissioner Seat 2
Jeff Brown, Commissioner Seat 3
Jeff Pawul, Fire Chief