

OPEN LETTER TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FROM THE CAPTIVA COMMUNITY PANEL

At this time, the County knows why the Panel objects to the proposed ordinance.

It increases building heights on Captiva outside the gates of South Seas, and opens the door to future development in South Seas with greater density and higher buildings than permitted under current regulations – all without any consultation with the Captiva community.

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE FUNDAMENTAL AT STAKE HERE.

**WILL YOU, OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LISTEN AND
REPRESENT THE COMMUNITIES THAT ELECTED YOU?**

In an unprecedented outpouring of public opposition, you now know that virtually no voters, no property owners, no businesses and no community, civic, environmental or government organizations on Captiva or Sanibel support the changes to the density or height regulations on Captiva or the process that got us here.

As the organization designated by the County to recommend the goals and policies for Captiva to the Board of County Commissioners, the Captiva Community Panel implores you, our Commissioners, to listen to your constituents. Your constituents are doing everything possible to reach you – to tell you that the proposed ordinance is wrong, that increased density is not about resiliency, and that the wishes of one property owner should not ride roughshod over the interests of a whole community.

When the Captiva Community Panel, the Captiva Civic Association, Captiva businesses and realtors, the Captiva Chapel by the Sea, the 12 South Seas Condominium and Homeowners Associations, the SanCap Chamber of Commerce, and the Sanibel City Council ask you to vote “no,” it is because these proposals are harmful to the community. When hotels and resorts on Captiva tell you it is unfair to grant greater density and building heights to only one resort on Captiva and that they have lived by the rules and so should others, they are words of wisdom and experience. When the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society, the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum and CROW tell you the proposed changes are environmentally unsound, they are important words of caution. And when you receive more than 2,500 emails, letters and phone calls from your constituents opposing the changes, it is democracy in action. **BUT ONLY IF YOU LISTEN.**

Captiva has always been a proud part of unincorporated Lee County. The Panel has worked closely with the County on the Captiva sections of the Lee Plan and the Land Development Code to reach solutions that work for both Captiva and the County. Unfortunately, this time something very different happened – which brought us these flawed proposals and the intense response from the community against them. But this can be fixed by you – our County Commissioners. Just listen to the people you represent – and please vote “NO.”