

June 6, 2017

City of Fort Lauderdale Commissioners and Mayor

Gentlemen:

I request that you vote against the motion to authorize the application of the Rahm Bahia Mar LLC site plan.

The City of Fort Lauderdale, which represents the taxpayers, holds the cards regarding the future of this remarkable real estate. The facts are that Bahia Mar is owned by the public and leased to Rahm Bahia Mar LLC under the following key terms: "the premises shall be used as a first-class hotel-marina and resort complex," and that, "the Lessee shall maintain the character of Bahia Mar as a marina."

***Why does the city commission continue to entertain developers' proposals that simply don't meet the terms and spirit of the lease?*** The property was purchased by municipal recreation bonds and the lease clearly states how the property should be used. Why must we, the people who own the property, continually play defense against lessees that want to skirt the terms to enrich themselves? Why not tell the lessee what we, the property owners, want Bahia Mar to look like, including meeting the needs of the Boat Show, and, if they don't wish to fulfill that concept, they can sell it to an organization that does?

***On another note, the city, representing the taxpayers, is allowing a paltry return on, arguably, the most valuable publicly-owned property in Fort Lauderdale.*** Charging just \$1.5 million a year on a uniquely situated piece of land worth hundreds of millions of dollars while generating \$36 million for the lessee, is preposterous.

The City of Fort Lauderdale website states that part of your mission is to, "***...represent the public interest, and assure the present and future fiscal integrity of the municipal government.***" How to redevelop Bahia Mar presents an opportunity for the city commission to do just that. It's time to go back to the drawing board and develop a plan that satisfies us, the owners of the property, and the exceptionally lucrative annual Boat Show, rather than jumping through the hoops of the people who lease the property and profit from it handsomely at our expense.

Respectfully,

Nancy K. Thomas  
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***"The mission of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission is to represent the public interest, promote quick, courteous response to residents' problems, provide leadership and direction for the City's future, and assure the present and future fiscal integrity of the municipal government."***

Source: [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)

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Letter from

Nancy Thomas

Provided by

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