

From: Kris Wilkes <kristinewilkes@gmail.com>  
Date: Tue, Apr 16, 2013 at 7:40 AM  
Subject: Please Vote to Approve Construction of Grand Birch  
To: [DTrantalis@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:DTrantalis@fortlauderdale.gov)

4-16-13  
R-5

Statement  
Read By  
Kathy Haines

Dear Commissioner Trantalis,

My husband and I are new permanent residents of Fort Lauderdale, District 2, after re-locating here from San Diego. We are a retired child psychologist and an appellate lawyer. **We write to urge you to support the construction of Grand Birch.** We want to make our new home here in that beautiful building. We also want to see Central Beach continue on the trajectory of improvement that is underway, so that it can realize its potential as a premier beach community.

Unfortunately, there appears to be a tiny, but vocal minority that is loudly protesting this project for their own self interest. This is selfish and hypocritical because they already live in similar, or much larger buildings in the immediate vicinity. They want to exclude others from the same enjoyment of the area. They are willing to stall all development to do so, even if it means retaining a blighted vacant lot.

Contrary to the CBA's hysterical outcries, the following reasons plainly support approval of this project:

1. It is a gorgeous, relatively small building, meticulously planned, and completely compatible with (indeed a grade above) the surrounding area.
2. It will be a vast improvement and upgrade of Birch Road and the entire community, which is now dotted with trash ridden, chain link fenced and decrepit vacant lots and decaying mid-century structures. These parcels blight and undermine the quality of the entire community.
3. It will substantially contribute to local revenues through property taxes and local spending.
4. There are only two comparable buildings in the area--aside from the ones next door. These are La Rive and La Cascade. These buildings and the neighboring buildings are either completely or almost fully sold out. We have looked in vain for months for a boutique condo on the Intracoastal in Central Beach. Providing access to housing for permanent residents anchors the community and increases stability to counter-balance the damaging impacts of seasonal visitors and vacationers.
5. The project does not adversely impact the neighboring buildings, but has been carefully tailored to minimize negative impacts, much more than the existing buildings did when they were constructed. With only 22 units and ample internal parking, the impact on traffic will be negligible.

In sum, please support the wave of beauty that is sweeping Central Beach with the redevelopment and new development of high quality buildings. This development attracts quality permanent residents committed to the community. Vote "yes" on Grand Birch.

Respectfully,

Kristine L. Wilkes, Esq. and James C. Wilkes, Ph.D