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Paul Rudolph, one of this country's greatest architects, the father of mid century modernism in Florida, one of the most influential voices in modern architecture said this about Urban Planning. -"The way you relate to your neighbor is the critical part of urban planning"

It's not just Aqua blue one that relates poorly to its neighbor, it's Aqua Blu Two. It's aqua blue two and the additional density that is coming to the Sunrise corridor. This project is about the direction that the Galleria mall redevelopment will go. Aqua Blu cannot stand on its own merits, you need to look at this project holistically and in the context of the impact it will have on a vulnerable neighborhood.

I don't think there has been a more pivotal project in the pipeline than Aqua Blu One and the soon to come Aqua Blue Two. The precedent you set here tonight will open the floodgates for thousands and thousands of units in this neighborhood. That's why it was called up from P&Z, to look at this project in the larger context. You cannot put this one back in the box. It is indeed a critical fulcrum of our urban planning and will impact us for decades to come.

The Sunrise Intercoastal is a very, very fragile neighborhood, just like the small residential neighborhoods on the barrier island. Can you see this project in Dolphin Isles or Lauderdale Beach?

I ask you to go light on the land and be thoughtful about how this project relates to its neighbor.

I am also quite disappointed that not one mention is made in the applicants narrative about the mid century modern architectural history that is represented in 920 Intercoastal Drive. Right now, in Fort Lauderdale, there's a beautiful period of time that is being subtracted from our cultural legacy. Mid Century modernism is fading from our history. It's hard to make a case that's not an esoteric one. How do you regulate something that is like a Prustian memory of a soft summer afternoon in 1956. Something that represents what the best and the brightest brought to modern culture in Fort Lauderdale, in the post war era. It's a hard case to make in the face of developers willing to spend 20-30 million dollars on a project. It's a hard case to make, but it is an important one.

You are the policy makers. You want a flexible code, so you can be flexible. This is a time that you should exercise some constraint and remember that the way you relate to your neighbor is the critical part of urban planning.

Abby Laughlin