

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 9:05 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032
Attachments: DENY EU APPLICATION Docket #20240032-SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

Antonia Hover

From: Debbie Dunn <debbiedunn8457@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:43 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith
Subject: DENY EU APPLICATION Docket #20240032-SU

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Good evening. I am writing as a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island. Unfortunately, our home was one of the three that burned down during hurricane helene so we've nothing left but a sandy lot, and I might add: A PERFECTLY INTACT SEPTIC TANK.

We're currently in the process of planning to rebuild and have engineered plans, have had surveys done and have already spent nearly \$40,000.

We are going to have to install another septic tank (new code requirement) in order to move forward building this house, which is going to cost a considerable sum. As I'm sure you're aware, we live on a barrier island with no bridges and have to barge everything over which greatly increases the cost of everything we do.

It is highly unfair that we have to pay for a new septic system and then be forced to tear it out within a year or two in order to accommodate a sewer system that we do not want nor need and also fear. And, there are many others in this same situation.

Island-wide fear is due to the lack of effectiveness of the kind of system being proposed, the time it will take to complete along with the interruptions to our right for the peaceful enjoyment of our property. The destruction to our island will compound the devastation already inflicted by the recent hurricanes. In addition, the estimated costs are going to far exceed the estimate presented by the applicant and does not include the upgraded electrical system that each home or property will be required to provide.

And then, God forbid, what will happen should there be another storm the magnitude of Ian, Helene or Milton. What will happen each time the power goes down on the island (which most recently went down for the entire day on March 24th) and happens often? What is the plan for another catastrophic storm surge? Who will be responsible for the damage to property owners due to effluent escape?

The majority of the people on the island do not want this and the very few in favor appear to have personal reasons: either they are related to the applicant, good friends of the applicant or stand to benefit from the approval of the subsequent project.

I listened via zoom to all of the people who came and spoke at the hearing. Nearly all were against it.

The testimony that I found most appalling, and also quite interesting, was from the gentleman who stated that he had been offered to buy this sewer system for eleven million dollars. Why would he say this if it wasn't true? With all due respect, this has shade of backroom shenanigans.

I am disappointed (and quite honestly, disgusted) should there have been any sort of back room positioning in order for persons to make money off the backs of people who have already been through several traumatic, damaging and expensive experiences since 2021, some losing everything with no federal, state or local help.

I have to say that personally for us, this development will have an impact on whether we do rebuild, because we simply can't afford to put in a new septic system only to have it torn out; have to undergo further interference on the island again in order to put in this unwanted and unnecessary sewer system. The only advantage I see is not for the island, the environment or our people, but for the enrichment of a private company (person) that plans to sell as soon as possible.

There has been no evidence presented of environmental damage to sensitive areas that surround our beautiful island. The current systems in place to the north, south and east of us all had major problems due to the fact that the systems did not perform as planned during and after these recent storms, subsequently wreaking havoc with overflow waste flowing into and onto private property, not to mention the surrounding waters.

I would ask you from the bottom of my heart to deny this application due to the following:

1. The applicant is not qualified to install and operate the planned system.
2. He (jack boyer) has expressed to others the plans to sell the "slam drunk" project to enrich himself, and has stated to others that this is "his retirement plan".
3. 95% of the community opposes this application.
4. Most owners are not able to afford it and will have to sell which, in all likelihood, will create a "land grab" by those who wish to change one of the last, beautiful vestiges of Old Florida... for personal monetary gain.
5. Many owners will refuse to give an easement or right of way which will result in long, embroiled and acrimonious lawsuits.
6. To add insult to injury, should this be forced upon us, we will be obligated to pay monthly fees for the "privilege" of having this unwanted atrocity after being strong-armed to fund it in the first place.
7. The likelihood of unforeseen mishaps due to the nature of our unique island, and the lack of the adequate infrastructure to support such a fiasco, would surely reap dire consequences to our surrounding environment, not to mention our individual homes and land.

I appreciate you taking a moment to read my letter and to consider my request, as I'm sure it will be same request of many islanders who have like opinions and desires.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dunn
Property Owner
8314 Grand Ave
Placida, FL 33946
386-479-7981