

Dear Mayor, Commissioners and City Manager

I am dismayed that the city is considering a new garage at the Simonton and Angela Fire Station.

There are many reasons to oppose this project.

As the owner of The Gardens Hotel my first issue is that there is constant flooding on Angela Street after ANY rain event. The drainage is simply not sufficient and since the new firehouse and parking were built on the site, there is a waterfall effect from the elevated parking lot cascading over the steps and dumping onto Angela Street. The proposed drawings seem to indicate the only entrance and exit from a new garage would be from Angela Street, which is simply not usable if it rains.

Do, really need more parking on this little island, at least not in our beautiful and compact historic downtown, and that building more parking just induces people to drive more.

“If you build it, they will come”

The city should be encouraging people to drive less. Yes there is congestion in old town. Lots of resident worker bees have been moving off Key West as affordability issues have not nor ever will be fully resolved on a 2 by 4 mile island. In addition everyone would love a “FREE parking spot” and many will drive around the island looking for one which only increases congestion.

In recent years more and more employees have taken to electric bikes and motorized scooters to get to their employment, many coming from Stock Island and beyond. Locals and visitors utilize Uber, Lyft and Taxi’s which are easily available and affordable.

It seems that the goal of the city should be to ease congestion, keep old town historic and assure that we are always focused on creating more affordable housing.

Unfortunately, a new garage on Angela Street will not accomplish those goals.

The city has a completed study for the Stock Island *Intermodal Center* which Could Alleviate Downtown Parking Shortages, Reduce Congestion, and Support Affordable Housing .

This study was reviewed by city staff, and transit officials, and are in line with the city’s goals of reducing carbon emissions, improving transit accessibility, and supporting workforce housing,.

Do we really need to increase congestion by adding parking in our historic district?

I urge you all to please read the study on a long term fix for congestion and parking issues in that report prior to agreeing to the Angela Street garage proposal. Much better to be forward thinking on the major issues than to think a Band-Aid approach is the answer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Miano

The Gardens Hotel