

Good evening,

My name is Marcia Baker and I have lived at 1753 Seaway Drive for over 34 years.

I would like to add an additional project to the Port Master Plan that would increase the safety and well being of everyone living or working along the inlet.

The area I am referring to is the stretch of deep water frontage shown on this aerial map stretching from the Manatee restaurant E and including the City owned lot E of the Square Grouper. The aerial shows what this looked like when I first moved to Ft Pierce with waterfront docks and boat landings at the restaurants and hotels.

Now because of the walkway which I am proud to say I helped develop, the restaurants can no longer fence off the rocks or use their waterfront for special activities as they do not own the 40' right of way that was deeded to the Army Corps of Engineers in 1933 with a corrective deed description in 1936. I have copies of both deeds.

The City cannot enforce safety rules outside of it's 20' leased walkway and the opportunity for adjacent property owners to fully utilize their property has been lost. When the inlet was dredged and developed by the City starting in 1921 and continuing through to 1935 it was discovered that the plat of the Fort Pierce Beach subdivision filed in July 1924 had a 40' public access all around the property from the E 20' of what is now the Sea Tern Condominiums and continuing all along the inlet E and then S along the ocean(I have a copy of that map).

To allow for the legal authority to prevent people from using the access for oyster harvesting or other purposes that would interfere with the port activities the City titled it to the Government.

I suggest the City re-acquire the right of way from the Army Corps Of Engineers. This would allow the restaurants to again have full use of their water frontage and would allow for legal enforcement of health and safety rules. A few years ago Buzz Smyth suggested a water taxi project with a stop at the Manatee restaurant I think this is a marvelous idea and would add it to the Port project.

Re-acquisition of the 40' right of way would enhance the Port program, add value to the City owned lot and increase the City's assessible property tax inventory.