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July 8, 2019

Chairman Robert Highsmith
Monroe County School District
c/o Highsmith & Van Loon
3158 Northside Drive
Key West, Florida 33040

Dear Chairman Highsmith,

The Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce urges the Monroe County School District Board to consider the prospect of utilizing the property on 5th Street and 3rd Avenue in Stock Island as a potential site for workforce housing. The space isn't ideal for rotating large busses in and out; and would be best served; as a residential property. The footprint of Stock Island in general is changing rapidly, and large commercial vehicles such as school busses would find a place like Rockland Key more suitable. We suggest that the property currently for sale, which was the proposed location of a potential Walmart as a much better alternative to the more limited space on Stock Island. It seems to us, that transporting people to a facility on Rockland Key; would be a better solution than attempting to transform a property that has limitations and better suited for a more pressing area of need.

As I know you are aware, the issue of workforce housing is dire and losing what could be a great residential area to a solely commercial/industrial endeavor seems shortsighted at best. It is for that reason we urge you to consider this alternative to your ongoing plans.

Sincerely,


Virginia A. Panico, CCE
Executive Vice President

cc: Monroe County School Board
Directors of the Board