

Good afternoon Martin and our Friends in Lower Mat.

Have I fallen into a backdated bad dream or have "bad guys" kidnapped me and put me in a backwards time machine to the summer of 2015 ??

I just read your email.....are you kidding me....?

I was afraid this issue would never get resolved and sure enough.....it obviously has not and probably will not.

Do you remember all the letters I wrote to Village Council ?...all the photos I sent to council ?...the aerial photos from a chopper that I hired ? Remember the "Briefing Notebooks" I prepared to document our efforts in 2014-2015 ? Does everyone remember the big meeting with the Lower Mat residents and Village Council the Sea Base ?

Does everyone remember the Council Meetings that I and Larry Z and others attended to speak our case ? Does everyone remember the resolution that FWC developed for our problem in concert with the Governor's office.....a 300 ft no motor zone which would have kept the big boats out from shore ? Of course, Village Council ignored the FWC and did nothing.

I am sorry to read your email and and I am sorry you guys are still fighting this issue 2-3 years later.

I would tell you that the Council Regime during that period could have cared less about the local residents. It is obvious that Council still does not give a damn about Lower Mat residents....but be damn sure to hook up to the sewers ! Ken Philipson was the only Council member who was sympathetic....he was our go between to FWC. Mike Forster who was on Council at the time said it best....."Islamorada is a fishing/tourist driven economy"....his words at a council meeting. I guess he had a hidden agenda.

Of course, he forgot to tell anyone about his food business he was putting together on Fiesta Key.....Fiesta Key being one of the primary departure points for the Lower Mat beach.

So....what would I do ? Well...we left ! The makeup of Lower Mat and Port Antigua is changing.....traffic is terrible year round. I sensed property values were and are declining especially on the beach front.

I sincerely love Islamorada....I have been going down there for 30 years to fish and was just there last month. It has certainly changed over the last 10 years that we lived in Port Antigua.

Nothing lasts forever !

Best of Luck !

Mike McLoad