

From: Lower Matecumbe <lmkanews@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 6:39 PM

To: Ken Davis <ken.davis@islamorada.fl.us>; Deb Gillis <deb.gillis@islamorada.fl.us>; Seth Lawless <seth.lawless@islamorada.fl.us>; Cheryl Meads <cheryl.meads@islamorada.fl.us>; Mike Forster <mike.forster@islamorada.fl.us>; Jim Mooney <jim.mooney@islamorada.fl.us>; Kelly Toth <clerk@islamorada.fl.us>

Cc: Peter Frezza <peter.frezza@islamorada.fl.us>; Andrew Engelmeyer <andrew.engelmeyer@islamorada.fl.us>

Subject: Sand Pile on Lower Matecumbe

Dear Islamorada Council,

Thirty years ago the Lower Matecumbe Key Association lobbied FDOT to build a bike path for us. It was not an easy effort convincing them, but in the end, Lower Matecumbe was rewarded for their diligence. We were the first island in the Keys to have a bike path from one end to the other. And perhaps because of the nature of our island, this bike path means the world to us. It is our park ... our place for walking, jogging, biking, meeting neighbors, walking dogs, enjoying our beautiful island. After Hurricane Irma, the Islamorada Foundation organized a clean-up day when folks from all over the Village helped clean the debris and provide a needed facelift for our glorious park.... an effort that lifted the spirits of an entire island.

A vast majority of residents on our island live in very close proximity to Sea Oats Beach at MM74.5. How disgruntled do you think our residents are with a pile of sand on our "park" for over a year now – with no relief in sight? Just take a look at the photos! Hundreds of taxpaying residents were accustomed to strolling along that stretch of our park, gazing out over Sea Oats Beach at the glorious azure sea beyond. Now we must skirt the sand pile through a rocky path seeing only the ugly pile of sand now covered with weeds. Even worse, heavy rains flood that area and the pooling water makes it impassable for days. This creates a safety issue forcing residents to use the narrow shoulder of US 1 to get around the cyclone fencing. Code Enforcement would cite us if we allowed this on private property.

We understand your hands are tied with permitting delays. And yes, we would like to replenish the sand on the beach, but with permitting issues, that could be years away. We do not think we should wait for Army Corps and FDOT. Sell the sand! Save the money to help defray the cost of re-nourishing the beach whenever the permits are issued. Give us back our park.

Yours truly
Lower Matecumbe Key Association



