

Mayor Holic and City Council,

Recently, there has been considerable discussion regarding attainable/workforce/affordable housing centered around Knights Trail and Laurel Road, the latest being an article published by the Herald Tribune on June 22, 2016. Previous to that there were several email exchanges on the City's public server on this same subject.

First, we are very impressed with the group of "concerned citizens" that have put together to address the potential need for workforce housing in northeast Venice. Those mentioned as participants are the Mayors of Venice and North Port, a County Commissioner, executives from PGT, Tervis Tumbler and United Way, a commercial real estate broker and a well-known developer of affordable apartment housing. We urge you, however, to convince those presently involved in this group, to add representation from the nearby residential area. Northeast Venice is, by far, the fastest growing part of the City and the residents from this area must have input on how their neighborhood is to be developed. If they do not, it will only cause suspicion as to what is happening "behind closed doors" and the worse will be assumed by those excluded. All stakeholders must be comfortable with any proposal if it is to be successful. In the past, private developers in our area, with encouragement from the City, have included resident stakeholders as advisors early in the game with great success. We suggest that doing so here will not only be as equally valuable but a necessity if there is to be community acceptance of any future attainable housing development. An excellent place to start this participation would be at the second scheduled meeting of this group on July 1, 2016.

In closing, we respectfully request that you use your influence to assure that resident representation be made a part of this group investigating attainable/workforce/affordable housing in the proximity of Knights Trail and Laurel Road.

Sincerely,

John Moeckel
President
Venetian Golf & River Club Community Association