

CONDOVILLE, THE NEW FORT LAUDERDALE

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Candidate for Fort Lauderdale Commissioner, District 2

If, out of sheer curiosity, you've had the desire to attend the last couple of Fort Lauderdale Commission meetings, you would have wasted your time. You could have stayed at home, printed out the agenda, and stamped "Approved" next to every project. It seems that the collective Commission belong to the new AA: Always Approving.

While you may think that the City Commission runs the City, one could make the argument that developers are the puppeteers pulling the City Commission strings. There's a song and dance that gets played out, and here's more or less how it goes.



The developer wants a project approved in Fort Lauderdale, so he does 3 things:

- (1) he doesn't make the project too ostentatious, or at least less ostentatious than the original design; he makes sure there are the right amount of trees and there will be some open spaces;
- (2) he commits to making 15% of the units to be designated "attainable," which means that these units will be sold for slightly over \$300,000 each (sounds attainable, right?);
- (3) he throws the City a bone and donates \$250,000 to an affordable housing fund (which, coincidentally, does not even afford the cheapest residence in the new condo). The Commission views these "concessions" as "evidence" that the developer truly cares about something more than getting his project approved (i. e. he cares about the future of Fort Lauderdale).

The developer's care for the future of Fort Lauderdale is best evidenced with his actions directly after the vote. When the developer wins his approval, he and his team immediately leave commission chambers and then proceed to chat right outside of City Hall for some time. Even though there's another hour of meeting left, rarely do they stay in attendance to listen to the other issues which our city faces. To me that shows true care for our city.

We should be aware that there are cities out there such as Vero Beach in Indian River County that have put a moratorium on new development. The reason

they have done so is because people are happy and they want to retain their quality of life. Some may criticize their "we found it first" mentality but at the very least you have to admire their desire to control their own city and their own destinies, rather than let other forces control them.

At the rate we're going, the Fort Lauderdale that once was will simply be that: what once was. And what we have to look forward to is a beautiful future ahead of us full of an endless amount of condos. When it takes 45 minutes to get your prescription refilled or drive from Commercial Blvd. to Broward Blvd., we'll no longer be living in Fort Lauderdale anymore, we'll be living in the New Fort Lauderdale: Condoville.

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Saving water saves you money!

For questions, or comments call Ron Shilton at 954-828-1310.

