

MESSAGES from more than 375 **Inlet Beach and Walton County residents and visitors** have been sent to the commissioners via email or other means. Many of these include the petition language as follows:

I have followed the issues involved with the Kidd family petition, and that of Inlet Dunes Homeowners Association, to abandon the right-of-way across their properties at Inlet Beach. As a concerned citizen, I strongly support the abandonment.

I am opposed to the developer's plan for a driveway (Project # MAJ20-000021). The developer clearly has adequate and typical access to US Hwy 98. He should not be allowed to impose a private driveway on land he does not own.

Since we do not need another road in the neighborhood, I ask the Walton County Board of Commissioners to do the right thing and allow each of the property owners full use of their own land. Thank you for your consideration.

EXCERPTS of additional comments have been sent as follows:

"The thought of having **a family's property stolen by a developer to increase that developer's profits makes me sick to my stomach. Is my property safe**, or can a developer find a way to steal it for their benefit? ... The question is: Do we cut a curb to allow IBCI access to US Hwy 98 or do we take land from 24 citizens to **build a useless road** and benefit IBCI?" *John Dunn, full time resident of Inlet Beach*

"If the county allows this to take place, **I fear for all homeowners as the developers take control of our local government.** ...many more contractors and developers will begin similar actions; heck, perhaps I can **get a 10' wide path cut through my neighbor's lot so I have direct beach access—this will definitely increase my lot's value.**" *Jeffrey Kopach, Inlet Beach*

"I am **appalled** that anyone would think that it's OK to take a piece of another person's land in order to increase the value of their own property. ... This is nothing more than a land grab like in the old Westerns I used to watch as a kid. It was wrong then, and it's wrong now. So call the Marshall, call the Sheriff, call the Cavalry. I strongly urge the Walton County Board of Commissioners to abandon the right-of-way across the properties at Inlet Beach. Anything less would be Un-American." *T. R., Dunnellon, Florida*

"[The developer] **purchased this property knowing FULL well that it did not have driveway access to Orange Street.** This is the public beach entrance and area that our family uses. Another road is not needed." *Theresa and Carlos Tosca, Inlet Beach*

I am a homeowner in Inlet Beach, FL, and would like to voice my concern about the **encroachment of a developer upon private property to further his own interests to the detriment of the current property owners.** In my opinion this is a **blatant infringement upon the rights** of the people whose family has owned and have had use of this piece of land for decades. ... The abandonment of the county's unused right-of-way across the land is just common sense. Allowing this to stand, unnoticed, has allowed this developer to take advantage of the situation and should be rectified immediately in order to protect a family with ties to the area for generations. *Linda Everman, Inlet Beach*

This project is yet another **where common sense and the needs of the community and residents are being blatantly ignored.** The parcel in question is not landlocked. It has a direct access to a primary road. **There is no reason that they need a different access through neighboring property.** I am opposed to the developer's plan for a driveway (Project # MAJ20-000021). *Amanda Schuette, Santa Rosa Beach*

I have just read in Socal Life local paper the issue regarding the "Kidd Family Struggle" and was shocked to learn that **although there is a law set in place to protect private homeowner's land from being bulldozed through, it has occurred anyway and without notice?** What is to stop the Kidds from building a pool, a home, or anything they deem appropriate considering the fact that it's their property, right on top of the cleared path? It's certainly within their legal parameters. I would elect such a stance myself, however, they may enjoy the large and beautiful trees which are being plowed down all over South Walton at record speed and turning exotic tropical scenery into apartments in an already bogged down town. I'm sure there is more to the story; there always is, but from what I read it seems black and white, you don't "grab" someone else's property. Thank you for allowing comments of concerned citizens to be read. *Sara Brower, Inlet Beach*

My name is Tracy Regan and I have been a resident of Walton County for 15 years. My family has owned property in Walton County for 20+ years. I am disturbed by the actions that I have read regarding the **possible taking of private property to create a personal driveway throughout multiple properties owned by others.** This is **egregious and disturbing.** *Tracy Regan, Santa Rosa Beach*

Thank you for taking into consideration in your deliberations how violating **[what a violation] the developer's plan is to another person's property** with their non-needed plans to cut through anyway. When a family has owned property for generations, it is **all the more cruel to have a 'land developer' lop off a chunk** while dividing the property. Respecting the owner is first and foremost, not otherwise. ...*Sincerely, RC Russell*

If This Developer is able to get permission I worry that Others might have an impact on My property in the future, using this example as a **"Legal Precedent"** Thank you for your consideration. *Charles E. "Rusty" Russell, Jr.*

I am a concerned citizen, with a **Civil Engineering degree** from Princeton University. I am well informed about the subject proposal. Since the developer can access his property from US Highway 98, I strongly oppose the plan to build a driveway (Project # MAJ20-000021) to benefit this developer. I do support the proposal for Walton County to abandon its right-of-way. To build the proposed driveway across private land would benefit only the developer; **it is NOT in the public interest.** Please do not approve this private development to benefit a single developer. Please act instead in the interest of the broader public. Thank you for considering my **expert opinion.** *Mark S. Barry mark.s.barry@gmail.com*

To all concerned in the underhanded land grab of the Kidd Family property: **Please please abandon this easement/right of way and put this issue to rest.** *Susan Prater, Inlet Beach*

I am a FULL TIME local resident that is very much concerned about **the over development of land...** and the ability of developers to extract profit from the area at the expense of critical local resources. For every tree that is removed, we are one step closer to more wind damage from hurricanes. For every paved road that is added, we are one step closer to localized flooding and storm surge risk. For every acre of natural land that we replace with development, we are adding demand and creating waste that the area cannot sustain. *Sky Lee, Santa Rosa Beach*

My husband and I moved to Walton County 2 years ago because of the beauty of the beaches and the active lifestyle we enjoy here. I am very concerned about the County Commissioners' apparent lack of concern for preserving the quality of life for existing residents in favor of **allowing developers free rein so they can make more money, regardless of the results for residents.** *Camilla Roark, Walton County*

In support of a World War II veteran that fought for our country and was the recipient of a Purple Heart. He fought for our freedom and was awarded the right to purchase this property and present to **his family legacy**. **This is what our country is founded on.** *Angie Harris, Inlet Beach*

My name is Toby Kidd, I have a vested interest in this issue as my family has owned and paid property taxes on the land in question since somewhere around the time I was born, (I will be 65 in September.) I may not be the world's most religious man but I am pretty sure I know right from wrong and I believe the bible has a few things to say that are relevant. To paraphrase: **Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor** and I believe there was something about Doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.
Toby A.W. Kidd

~ **If the developer would like to use land of a private land owner, they should offer to buy the land from the current land owners.** If the land owners do not want to sell their land, the government should not be asked to take away land which belongs to a private land owner. ~*S. Ryan Burrous, Santa Rosa Beach*

A minimum alternative should include **extending Pompano Street through the subject property** to Hwy 98. At least then the increased traffic and congestion in the area will be eased. In addition, IBCI should be required to **compensate all affected property owners** an amount equal to 3 times current market value of the land taken. *Daniel Musick, Inlet Beach*

I wanted to **communicate my disdain for the possibility that the county right-of-way can be abused for personal gain at the expense of the rights of the other homeowners.** It would be disgraceful to reward a developer's unlawful actions. Please make a just decision regarding this matter. Picture yourself as one of the affected homeowners who would be disadvantaged by IBCI's actions. We can't continue to reward selfish and unjust behaviors. The developer has other, lawful options for access to the site. The developer should use them, as opposed to a deceitful land grab. *Mark Rothe*

Here's a letter that perfectly encapsulates our whole case:

I'm writing this in support of the Kidd Family and the Inlet Dunes Homeowners' Association regarding their petition to the County to **abandon an outdated right of way** across property owned by the Kidd Family.

Seldom is such a straightforward action placed before the Commission, one with such an obvious decision to be made. The Commission should at once abandon a right of way created strictly to address public, governmental access to the Kidd's private property, as no such access is needed for public purposes.

That a private individual would—without permission or permit—clear-cut a swath through someone else's land for their own use to create a private driveway is **beyond audacious; it is as arrogant as it is illegal**, and **insults the most fundamental standards** of private land ownership in this nation.

IBCI has a track record of abusing the system to coopt their neighbor's property for their own personal gain. IBCI aggressively and without permission cleared property they do not own to build a private drive across Kidd Family Land. IBCI failed to seek the Kidd's consent, as well as County or State approval to initiate and approve permits for such actions, and even advertised the sale of their property touting the illegal action so that they could **falsely claim that their property has private access** that is by statute reserved for public use in exceptional circumstances. IBCI even had the audacity to place for sale signs advertising their lot on land owned by the Kidd family, the very family whose land IBCI is trying to bulldoze for their own enrichment.

Now IBCI is asking the Commissioners to underwrite such duplicity. Could it be any clearer that the Commission should act to abandon the right of way and put an end to IBCI's continuing efforts to abuse their neighbors' land.

Sincerely, Lance Moody