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CURRENT NEWS

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County Commission to rule on Key Haven development

If you go:

What: Monroe County Commission

When: 5:30 p.m. today

Where: Harvey Government Center, 1200 Truman Ave., Key West

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA

Citizen Staff

KEY HAVEN — The Monroe County Commission will decide today whether to allow \$1 million-plus homes in an area that Navy officials are calling a fighter jet "accident potential" and "high noise" zone.

The county Planning Commission recommended approval of the Key Haven Estates Ltd. project, despite Navy officials' objection to parts of the project. The Navy's main objection stems from the creation of Enchanted Island, 10 of the 43 units on the project, that will be in a potential airplane crash area, Navy spokesman Jim Brooks said.

"This is not a compatible use," Brooks said.

Navy officials shocked county staff and the Planning Commission last month when they announced a new map developed to safeguard areas within Naval Air Station Key West's flight zones. The Air Installations Compatible Use Zone map, the first new one since 1977, was developed by the Navy over the past two years. Based on noise levels and accident potential generated by base operations on Boca Chica Key, it is designed to discourage inappropriate land uses below the air space used by Navy flyers.

County officials were unaware of the map, despite it being developed by the Navy two years ago, county Growth

Wed, Feb 23, 2005

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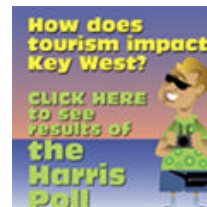


Adanelis Salgado First grade Poinciana Elementary School

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Management Director Tim McGarry said. County and Navy officials met Tuesday to discuss the Air Installations Compatible Use Zone.

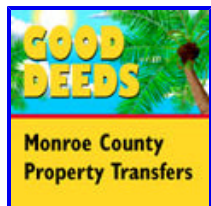
The zone would not apply to the county unless it is implemented in the county's land development regulations, McGarry said. The proposal will have to go before the county Planning Board and County Commission in public meetings. The process could take six months.

"This map never went through the process," McGarry said. "The county feels that we can't hold up the process [on the Key Haven project]. It's a vested a project. The [state Department of Community Affairs] could hold it up."

The state Department of Community Affairs, which regulates growth in Monroe County, could deny the project on the basis that the development would be an encroachment on the Navy property and hinder Naval operations, McGarry said.

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