



September 21, 2004

George Gretsas
City Manager
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Reference: SE 13th Street Median

Dear Mr. Gretsas,

The Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations was asked to attend the Property and Right of Way Committee meeting on Monday, September 21st at City Hall. The subject of this meeting concerned a permit issued to the First Christian Church to construct parking spaces in the public right of way previously containing bollards and "No Parking Signs". It should be noted that the City installed bollards to protect the green space and the County installed the "No Parking" signs. The installation of the signs and bollards was done twice and the church representative acknowledged having the bollards and signs removed for the convenience and benefit of the Church and the private Charter School it operates.

The District Commissioner acknowledged that the applicant presented his plan to her and she advised him that he would be required to go through the standard process for consideration of this request. Routinely, all processes of this type include the abutting and or adjoining property owners and the recognized Homeowner Association as a courtesy and to gain consensus of the benefit to the community at large. Previous documents indicated that this applicant attempted to obtain the same permit several years ago and was denied at that time by the then City Manager, George Hanbury. Letters confirming this rejection were present at this meeting.

After considering the applicant's request and the needs and desires of this historic neighborhood, it is the consensus of the Council that protecting medians that are considered greenways with arbor canopies is in keeping with the philosophies of the City Commission and the residents of the City.

We respectfully request that the City return the \$8,500 to the applicant cancel the existing permit and return the median to its original condition. It is not the obligation of the City or the public to provide parking for a private venture – one that indicated that it had doubled its size (with the growth of its private Charter School) and not doubled its parking or expanded its pick-up area. Please help the City maintain the remaining greenways and protect the historic nature of these fringe neighborhoods that are in transition. Also please assure that the process formally includes notification and input from the local residents and homeowner association, as they are the ones who experience the immediate impact of changes of this sort. Also, permits of this nature should automatically be submitted to the Property and Right of Way Committee for review and consideration. This was not done as a part of the issuance of this permit.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eugenia Duncan Ellis
President

Cc: Commissioner Cindi Hutchinson