

Guys,

I've met with representatives of The Villages twice and been on the phone with them several times trying to work through what their issues are and trying to come to an amicable resolution. Where this sits at this point is that additional communications may be forthcoming to further clarify what exactly their issues are with our work, what form that communications may be is still unknown as some of the key decision makers had taken time off due to spring break, so any follow-up action is still not fully decided. Some of the options discussed have included a clarifying letter from the lawyers, a letter directly from management, and a face-to-face one-on-one meeting, which, if any of these, it will be is again still undecided.

The primary feedback that I've received centers around what they consider illegal flights and trespassing in the form of flights that are too low, flights through buildings (this was a BIG issue) under construction, proximity to workers and equipment, BVLOS, and trespassing into the construction areas. I've shared with them that the partial quoting of FS934.50(3)(b) by their lawyers tries to make a case that is clearly missed when the full content and context of (3)(b) is addressed. I will share with you that I agree with the developer on several of the individual incidents that were discussed that the actions taken by some were either unsafe and/or unlawful. We as individuals must hold ourselves to the highest level of accountability or they will have little choice but take the next steps which could include the seeking of an enforcement action by the FAA and/or other legal actions, something I'm pretty sure none of us want.

From my perspective as a County Commissioner I will say that this negative news cycle does no good for the County(s), the community, the businesses and their employees, and the residents of Sumter or any of the surrounding counties or communities. We can do finger pointing all day long at who started this, them or us, but that is, at this point, probably irrelevant as we have a fire storm of negative PR that will adversely affect all of us if we don't work together to put it out.

I'm sure that each of you, like I, have received a maelstrom of support for our position on this matter and may have received a lot of "legal advice" from internet and AI lawyers on this. For me, I have put on hold legal actions and am trying to

work through the issues as calmly as possible, as the only ones that would truly benefit from a protracted legal action would be the lawyers. I am not interested in watching this explode on the internet any more than it already has. It has consumed more of my time and energy than I would like and has kept me from pursuing the journalistic endeavors that I would prefer.

This is where I stand at this point on the issues at hand, obviously each of you is free to take whatever course of actions you would chose and feel would serve your own best interests. That being said, I believe that we all stand a better chance of coming out of this mess successfully if addressed as a common front than if we force a confrontation with multiple weaker defenses.

Best wishes to all, fly safe.

**Don Wiley**

***Gold Wingnut Productions***