

April 6, 2025

St. John's Cultural Resource Review Board
Attn: Commissioners
500 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, FL. 32084

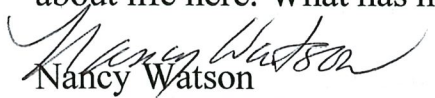
Dear Commissioners:

As a homeowner here in Vilano, I wanted to express my concerns regarding the changes. When my husband and I were snowbirds we came here for a change of Colorado life. We saw the beach area and the quaintness of life here. The biggest thing at that time in 2018 was the beach area and the Magic Beach Motel. Everyone talks about it and it's history. Artists have come here to draw pictures of it. The rooms may be small, but the history of life was in them. There was "magic" to the rooms. The pool was just outside and the food at the motel was great. What more could one ask for? Publix, gas station, Magic Beach, Hampton Hotel, Ocean View Hotel. That is all that was needed here in Vilano. SO, we bought a home and MOVED here in Vilano. Now we have the Hyatt which has clogged up the parking as they charge their patrons to park in the hotel. So their visitors now clog up the parking at the Publix or on Vilano Road in front of the Holiday Inn. Lost in all of this is the Magic Beach Motel.

I realized that initially the owner of the Magic Beach wanted to retire after all the years he put in providing a good livelihood and giving visitors a nice place to stay, History! Close to the beach, parking, food, that's all that was needed. The new owner wanted to put up a high rise Hotel, much like the Hyatt. More parking would be needed if that was to happen. That idea was scratched as the **homeowners** here knew we didn't need another highrise. So another new owner took over and promised to update the Magic Beach Motel. GREAT!! Now he has been influenced to sell and put up townhomes. There isn't any MAGIC left to downtown Vilano! You've cut down on the parking by changing the landscape of the entrance to the beach. You've torn down memorials at the entrance to the beach. What's left? NOTHING!

The Magic Beach Motel is the LAST memory of history here. If you get rid of that, what's left? Look at what has happened in to the Lights of Nights. Why do the visitors have the say as to the people who live in these areas?

The **oldest City in the USA** is being destroyed by conglomerates who could care less about life here. What has happened to the "MAGIC"?


Nancy Watson
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