Carpenter, Katherine

From: Carpenter, Katherine

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:20 PM

To: Comments, BCC Agenda **Subject:** FW: petition to vacate #1548

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Categories: BCC

From: Dan Foreit <danforeit@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:13 PM
To: Lugo, Jo A <jlugo@co.pinellas.fl.us>

Cc: Carpenter, Katherine <kcarpenter@co.pinellas.fl.us>

Subject: petition to vacate #1548

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Today I saw the PETITION TO VACATE #1548 sign on the Pinellas trail.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend tonight's meeting but wanted to make sure that an objection to this petition is heard.

The petition to close the access from a neighborhood street onto a public trail should be denied.

Good urban planning strives to provide access for alternative modes of transportation - biking and walking. Good planning decreases our dependence on driving automobiles on the already clogged roadways.

Any reduction in access to these bike paths and walkways will impact those who will now be burdened by a longer distance to travel to socialize, visit local shopkeepers and get exercise. Closing access points and increasing the travel distance may well be a tipping point that forces someone to get in a car. And once they have to drive then they might bypass the local shops and head somewhere else.

It is easy to think "oh - its just a couple of blocks to the next access point:" That is not acceptable. Our an increasingly elderly population should not be dissuaded from walking. Getting out on foot promotes good health. It is a great way to meet your neighbors. It helps weave together the fabric of our society.

Any new development today that goes to the board for approval must provide for good pedestrian access.

So why would you allow someone to take away an access point and reduce the quality of life for all of us?

Please vote NO.

I would like to have this letter entered in the discussion tonight. Please let me know it will be heard.

Dan Foreit PO Box 373 Crystal Beach, FL 34681

727 517 2000

