

Dear Citizens of St. Pete Beach,

As many of you know there will be a vote on six referendums in November which will decide how St. Pete Beach will be developed. There has been a lot of hype and propaganda spewed from both sides of the political debate regarding the referendums. As a citizen of St. Pete Beach my suggestion to you is to believe none of it. Go out on your own and find the answers for yourself. Information is power and this information will free you to vote the right way, the way of your own heart. To gather this information you will need to look at public records and ask questions to the right people.

- Ask the people handing out Vote No and Vote Yes literature to see their driver's license. You will find many of the Vote No people do not live on St. Pete Beach. Many are paid employees of the hotels on the beach.
- Ask your city council person to see the original study that was done for St. Pete Beach in a few years ago. Then compare the results of that study to the current comprehensive plan. You will see a huge difference.
- Ask your city council person why they spent your tax money (over \$300,000) to sue their citizens to try to prevent them from voting on these issues.
- Ask your city council person what type of business they work in. You will find many of them will profit from 20 story hotels being built up and down Gulf Blvd.
- Ask your city council person if they said at a public forum that this issue is too complex for the citizens to understand. You will find the answer is yes. Prove them wrong by finding out the facts for yourself.
- Ask your city council person to see the plan that will handle all the extra traffic, extra water needs and extra sewage needs that all the big new hotels will demand on the city. You will find they don't have one and that we the taxpayers will have to pay for this.
- Ask your city council person how you will get to Palms of Pasadena hospital in an emergency when Gulf Blvd is overcrowded with traffic.
- Ask your city council person if tourism has been increasing or decreasing every year. You will find it is increasing every year. That is because St Pete Beach is so beautiful. Having a concrete cavern of tall hotels will make it ugly.
- Both sides of this argument don't want condos. Ask your city council person why they don't simply put a moratorium on condo development. Ask the developers to see their plans for the new hotels. Ask how many units of these new hotels will be condos. You will find that many condo units are part of these new hotels.
- Ask the current hotels who their owners are. You will find out that they are not your friends and neighbors. Instead you will find out they are big greedy corporations with offices outside of St. Pete Beach.
- Ask Alliance for a Balance Community who their leaders are and where do they live. You will find very few of them live in St. Pete Beach.
- Ask Alliance for a Balance Community where they are getting their money from. You will find that out-of-town developers and the same big greedy corporations which own the hotels are the main backers of this group.
- Ask CRG leaders and members if they are anti-tourism, anti-growth or anti-hotel. You will find that they are not. CRG wants tourism and growth but using a phased approach to ensure the city's infrastructure can handle it. CRG does not want 20 story hotels that will darken Gulf Blvd and allow tourists to look down into your backyards.
- Ask yourself which side of this debate should decide the fate of St. Pete Beach: greed or responsibility.
- Citizens of St. Pete Beach I implore you to forget all the hype. Go out and empower yourself by finding out the facts on these issues. An educated voter will make the best choice whatever that choice may be.

Jeff Gavern – St Pete Beach resident