

102-1

Item # 102

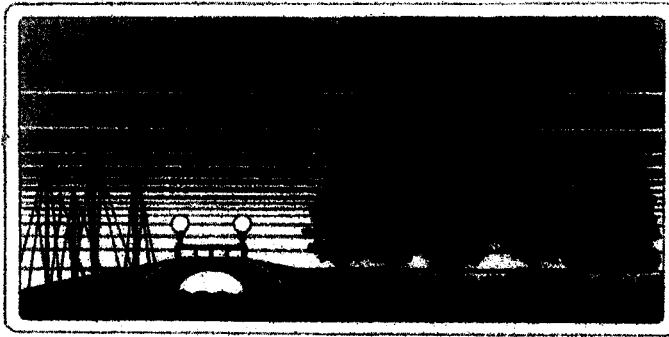
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
COMMISSIONER JOHN RODSTROM**

AUGUST 31, 2010

10:00 a.m.

30 AUG '10 PM 4:35



August 27, 2010

Mr. John Rodstrom
Commissioner District 7
Broward County Governmental Center
115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 413
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: Support for MOTION TO DIRECT, Item 102 on the August 31, 2010 Agenda -
Marshall Bridge (7th Ave. bridge) noise control -

Dear John:

As you know, the Fort Lauderdale downtown has undergone many changes during the past few years. The area around the Marshall Bridge has changed from mostly boat yards and other businesses to almost entirely residential and cultural. The Esplanade and Symphony House condos have been built and occupied and new town houses have been built and occupied in the area contiguous to and just southwest of the bridge. The net result is a change in the character of the area around the bridge with hundreds on new residents living next to or near the bridge.

Bridge noise which was once tolerable is no longer so. The center lift portion of the bridge is grid patterned steel. When vehicles drive over it, the resulting tire noise is loud and extremely bothersome to those living nearby. When weather conditions are right, the noise can be heard for at least a half mile, and maybe more. As the volume of traffic on 4th Ave. increases, this problem can only get worse.

The Tarpon River Civic Association has received a great many complaints to the effect that something must be done about the noise. Hundreds of people are now being adversely impacted each day.

We are pleased that progress is being made to address this issue and we strongly support the MOTION TO DIRECT, Item #102 on the 8/31/10 agenda

Thank you in advance for you help with this matter.

Yours truly,

David W. Rose – Chair, Development Review Committee

cc: TRCA Board of Directors

Smith, Susan

From: BruBkrm@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, August 07, 2010 3:58 PM
To: Keechl, Ken; Gunzburger, Suzanne; Jacobs, Kristin; Jones, Albert; Lieberman, Ilene; Ritter, Stacy; Rodstrom, John
Subject: Re: Structural Noise Reduction Study SW 4th/7th Ave. Draw Bridge Over New River

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Monday, August 30, 2010 9:00 AM
Flag Status: Flagged

Greetings.

I understand that the report and project funding regarding the Noise Reduction Study are on the agenda for Tuesday's upcoming meeting (Item #111). I have spoken on this subject at a previous meeting and would urge you to vote in support of funding the project, both on behalf of myself and many other residents at the Symphony Condominium. I would also urge the commissioners to ascertain that the proposed structural remedy will be more than a cosmetic "fix" and truly serve our community by meaningfully reducing the amount of noise. To that end, I would like to make some observations.

My unit is situated directly above the bridge grating in question. From that vantage point, I can tell you that the open grating roadway deck appears to have been sprayed at one time with a rust-colored coating. Presently, some 17 strips across the grating are clearly visible. After so much use, the eight "tire strips" (four car lanes) are fairly obvious because the rust color has worn off. More than just the width of a normal tire tread is worn off on each such strip because, as you know, cars and buses seldom track the exact same path each time. However, the "worn" sections constitute less than half of the total area of the grating roadway deck. Moreover, the unused median strip appears to be much wider than any of the others.

From my own observations, I estimate that if concrete fill (the solution mentioned in the report) were strategically placed over only 2/5 of the grating, the bridge could likely support it and the noise problem would abate significantly. **All of the tire strip areas must be treated with concrete fill for that to happen, and such is not the case on certain other area bridges. Therefore, I once again urge you to fund the project and to assure yourselves through the Public Works Department of a satisfactory outcome for all concerned.**

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce M. Bakerman
600 W. Las Olas Blvd., Unit 2105
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Tel. #: 954-468-5556
BruBkrm@aol.com



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FLORIDA

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COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT IV

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August 27, 2010

The Honorable John E. Rodstrom, Jr.
Commissioner, District 7
Broward County Governmental Center
115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 416
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: SW 4th / SW 7th Avenue Drawbridge – Marshall Bridge

Dear  Commissioner Rodstrom:

As the City of Fort Lauderdale Commissioner for District IV in which the above-referenced bridge is located, I would fully support the noise mitigation methods under review by Broward County. My office has received numerous complaints from nearby residents in the Tarpon River and Sailboat Bend neighborhoods about the noise emanating from the Marshall Bridge. The December 2009 Structural Noise Reduction Study by Hardesty & Hanover, LLP, revealed that the bridge deck does result in considerable noise in the surrounding areas.

Given the volume of traffic on this bridge, I urge that serious consideration be given to adding features, such as the concrete wheel paths on the draw span recommended by the study, to reduce the high noise levels.

Your assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated. If you or County staff have any questions, please contact Peter Partington, P.E., City Engineer, at (954) 828-5240.

Sincerely,



Romney C. Rogers
Vice Mayor and Commissioner - District IV

RR / mm

cc: John P. "Jack" Seiler, Mayor
Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner – District I
Charlotte E. Rodstrom, Commissioner – District II
Bobby B. DuBose, Commissioner – District III
Allyson C. Love, Acting City Manager
Albert J. Carbon III, P.E., Public Works Director
Peter R. Partington, P.E., City Engineer



8/27/08



ON THE RIVER AT THE CENTER

Mr. John Rodstrom
Commissioner District 7
Broward County Government Center
115 S. Andrews Avenue Avenue, Room 413
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: Marshall Bridge (7th Avenue) Noise Control

Dear Commissioner Rodstrom:

We at the Symphony Condominium represent some 340 residential units in the downtown area bordering the Marshall Bridge. Our residents have suffered from the noise produced by the ever-increasing traffic flow over the grating on that bridge, which not only affects the units themselves but which in addition pervades our inside and outside common areas.

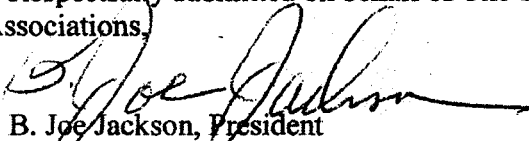
At the time the bridge was constructed in the late '50s, the substantial and rapid increase in area population had not begun. Today it is a reality and will only continue to increase. At the same time, the growth of downtown Ft. Lauderdale itself has significantly increased the traffic flow over the bridge and the corresponding noise volume in the area. The noise seriously affects the well-being of our residents, their ability to quietly enjoy their premises, as well as all that The Symphony has to offer.

Future enhancements and development are already planned for the Riverwalk District, which we understand includes the area of SW 7 and 4 Avenues. Ceramic art work to beautify the bridge is under consideration, and the construction of a stairway on the south side of the New River next to the bridge is also planned. However, we believe that the problem of bridge noise should take priority and be promptly remedied because it directly and adversely affects all area residents. If left unabated, it will also undermine any future efforts to beautify this part of the New River.

What we would like to see is a permanent solution that works for all concerned. Coating the grating with a small strip on either lane, where traffic is estimated to pass, has not proven to be a satisfactory solution. We therefore ask that it be as comprehensive as possible and that it proceed on a priority basis.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of The Symphony and Symphony Condominium Associations)


B. Joe Jackson, President

Symphony Master Association