

Vineta: Proposed travel routes for hotel staff and valets

At the Town Council meeting on Wednesday March 15th, the valet company retained by the owners of the Vineta hotel proposed a traffic pattern showing valet and staff shuttle travel from West Palm Beach and the contracted parking spaces at 440 and 340-350 Royal Palm Way to and from the hotel. The proposed routes showed travel on the 400 block of Brazilian Avenue.

At a meeting at my home two days earlier with Tim Hanlon and Michael McCarty, I was told that NO traffic would flow down Brazilian. At the Town Council, however, the pattern diagram submitted by the valet company proposed travel down Brazilian. Faster travel time to the hotel is the only justification for traffic on Brazilian; no other reason exists.

Brazilian is virtually a two-way speedway providing quicker access to the center of town while avoiding traffic congestion. From the Vineta's point of view, using Brazilian is the fastest way to shuttle staff and provide valet service. Use of that street, however, will increase the danger, traffic, and parking pressure to the more than 100 souls in the 400 block of Brazilian between Coconut Row and South Lake Drive.

Happily, there are other ways for the Vineta to provide the valet and staffing services from these parking lots without using Brazilian Avenue. It can use the two legal "U-turn" spots through the median strip from Royal Palm Way at the Society of the Four Arts or at South Lake Drive. Cars or shuttles can also turn on the shorter north-south streets such as Coconut and Hibiscus and turn on the one-way east-west streets. By the nature of the design of those streets, travel speed will be reduced, and safety augmented.

Once the hotel reopens, there will be patrons who choose not to use hotel valet service but to self-park in the neighborhood. The Town Council has tools to mitigate this expected intensity of use, such as additional parking restrictions and further permitted-only parking within the neighboring streets. These changes should be implemented in advance of the Vineta's debut.

To forestall rising neighborhood concern on the Vineta's traffic flow proposal, the Town Council may wish to add to the April 4th agenda a requirement that the Vineta submit a revised traffic flow diagram showing no traffic on the 400 block of Brazilian by staff shuttle or valet services.

Respectfully yours,

Lynn Foster
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