

From the Desk of Rabbi Barry Silver

Founder of PROTECT Democracy

(Progressive Resolute Organizations Together Enthusiastically Combatting Tyranny)

Re: Your Destruction of the Ag Reserve

Date: June 18, 2023

Dear Commissioners Weiss, Bernard, Marino, Barnett and Baxter:

You have recently approved yet another nail in the coffin of the Ag Reserve with your approval of the latest planned invasion of our precious farmland by GL Homes. As you may know, GL stands for Greedy Landowners, and they have already made themselves rich at the expense of the taxpayers, countless animals and lush vegetation which enriches our community. It is reckless, irresponsible, a violation of your oath of office and a betrayal of the public trust to allow more development in the Ag Reserve, which furthers environmental collapse and the Browardization of Palm Beach County.

I represent PROTECT Democracy, a coalition of organizations and people in this county who are fed up with 'polluticians" whose concept of "going green" is to accept obscene amounts of green, i.e. dollars from developers and pro-growth interests to plunder and destroy the last of our natural areas with legalized bribery, known as campaign contributions. Your approval of development in the Ag Reserve has a devastating impact upon the Everglades, climate change, water supply and our quality of life. The people of Palm Beach County voted long ago to tax themselves \$150 million in good faith to protect the environment while you demonstrate bad faith and corrupt the office you hold by ignoring the best interests of those you claim to represent. While we lack the vast resources of GL Homes and development interests, we offer you a different promise: if you approve this project, which will lead to the Ag Reserve's demise, we will use our considerable influence to bring about your political demise and urge all voters to vote you out of office and never support you for any office you seek in the future.

You say you are pro-growth. Well, cancer is a growth, and it kills by attacking, altering and taking over the DNA of its host to insidiously squeeze life out of its victim. The government reflects the DNA of our society, which controls our political lives. You have subverted the very purpose of government which should be to protect life, the planet and the public from harm, and have allowed yourself to be taken over by forces that bring death and destruction. While you may think this will help your political future by selling out your constituents to the highest bidder, you are wrong. The coopting and subversion of Rabbis to support your destruction of agriculture, which is considered a miracle of nature in authentic Judaism, in exchange for a gift of land to them, does not bless this project, it only condemns it further.

Rest assured that if you approve this latest project, or any other housing project in the Ag Reserve, which as its name reveals, was meant to be used for Agriculture, not to line the pockets of developers, our coalition of organizations and individuals will use rallies, social media and education of the public to vote you out of office should you seek re-election to the county commission or any other public office that you seek in the future. You have no right to abuse the public trust by converting our precious farmland into housing projects. You may consider this a form of political chemotherapy, in which we will excise cancer from our body politic. Should you wish to amicably discuss this matter, you may contact us at any time.

Govern Yourself Accordingly,

Rabbi Barry Silver
Founder of PROTECT Democracy