

To: BALDWIN County Commission (FILE) Hand out
from Elizabeth
Day

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From: Elizabeth Day elizabethday1973@gmail.com

Subject: 3rd Street Montrose

Date: Oct 13, 2019 at 1:05:05 PM

To: Elizabeth Day elizabethday1973@gmail.com, Elizabeth Lehrter
yaya_0@hotmail.com, debbiewq@gmail.com

Good Morning. My name is Elizabeth Day. My address is 23619 Third Street, Montrose

This is an emotional subject for my husband Robert and me. Like others here today we could lose so much that is dear to us. I am here today to defend our home and our wonderful lifestyle we appreciate more and more every year.

In 1987, Robert and I began our search for property in Baldwin County. At age 39, Robert's health was already declining because of the scoliosis he had battled since his youth. We wanted to move from the busy life in Mobile, and find a place that would be more suitable to our slower lifestyle. We were looking for a "forever" property.....pretty trees, slopes, and character. We knew we would eventually become more homebound than most of our friends. Therefore we tried to plan accordingly. We wanted a quiet street and a large yard in which I could spend endless hours.

We found our dream property on 3rd Street in Montrose. We love the diversity of the area, not only in the homes and yards, but also in the people.....from the very young to the very old.

It is a unique neighborhood that we all love. We cherish the quiet nature, the wildlife, and the relaxed atmosphere.

We thought we understood the issues we might face in the future development of the area. We knew that homes could be built south of us on 3rd Street, and we knew the Thomasson's property would eventually be developed, but it never occurred to us that

someone would try to make our little street a thoroughfare. The narrow lanes in Montrose are an essential part of the character of our neighborhood. They are lined with beautiful old live oaks, pines and magnolia trees.

We have lots of walkers and bicyclists in Montrose. In fact, some come from other areas to enjoy our streets. Walkers tend to stop and chat when they meet. Heavy traffic would be a detriment to this way of life.

Sibley Street already has heavy cut-through traffic. It's a shame! When we first moved here in 2001 we could walk on Sibley Street and easily get all around Montrose, but now it is too dangerous.

In the last five or six years, after seven back surgeries, and a knee replacement, Robert has been forced to abandon his walker for a wheelchair. With assistance, he uses 3rd Street in front of our home to enjoy outdoor exercise....and also to socialize with neighbors. Life would really be more difficult without this outlet for him. More traffic would make his outing impossible.

We love to see our four new young families also enjoying 3rd Street.... Strollers, small bikes, and toddlers picking the pretty purple berries. What a great place! Our new families recognize the great quality of life in Montrose. There are plenty of other neighborhoods where they could have invested their lives and money, but they chose Historic Montrose. They also value the near-rural setting of 3rd Street and the safety it provides. What a nice place to raise children!

Needless to say, we are opposed to the clearing and possible opening of 3rd Street on to Hwy.98. This would also negatively affect Taylor Street and Chapman and all of Historic Montrose. It would totally disrupt the lifestyle we all enjoy.

At a Baldwin County Commission meeting February 2, 2016, concerning the Crawford property zoning at Graham Street and 3rd Street in Montrose, the general opinion of the Commissioners was "the county has reservations about

putting ANY MORE traffic on 3rd Street and Sibley Street!" This can be viewed on their website. (DB4 Z-15028)

It is disheartening for ANYONE to come in with plans to change our neighborhood with little regard for those of us who live here and are heavily invested in our property and homes.

The Hwy. 98 access to the Thomasson property is certainly adequate WITHOUT connecting to 3rd Street. Rock Creek and the Woodlands and other subdivisions in the area have worked quite well with one access onto Hwy 98.

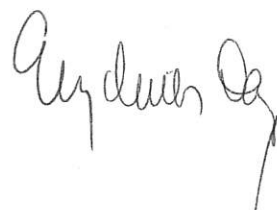
Any person who has spent time in Baldwin County recognizes Montrose as a little "gem". I believe, as residents here, it is our "duty" to defend the character of Historic Montrose. Otherwise we would be just another neighborhood. People would say "Remember Old Montrose, it used to be such a pretty little place." We need to stop this absurdity now.

The Thomasson property and Historic Montrose should remain separate entities. We in Montrose want to retain our own identity. We would appreciate respect regarding our properties and investments.

Hopefully, a plan will develop where the two neighborhoods can be good neighbors while retaining the integrity of each.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Day

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Day", written in a cursive style.