

From: [Tara Lee](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Cc: [Kevin Freeman](#)
Subject: FORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT – Willow Lakes / Project Neptune – September 17 Planning Board
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:36:33 PM

City of Fort Pierce

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Please distribute this correspondence to all members of the Planning Board and include it in the official public record for the Willow Lakes / Project Neptune matter. Please confirm receipt.

Dear Fort Pierce Planning Board Members and Planning Department,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Willow Lakes / Project Neptune data center development being considered by the Planning Board on September 17, 2026. Please distribute this correspondence to all Planning Board members and include it in the official public record for this matter.

I am a local resident, homeowner, parent, educator, and animal rescue advocate. I care deeply about responsible growth in St. Lucie County and the preservation of the rural and agricultural areas that make this community worth living in.

I am particularly concerned about converting agricultural or rural land to an intensive industrial use of this magnitude without sufficient assurances regarding its long-term effects on surrounding residents, water resources, wildlife, infrastructure, and quality of life.

Water resources are one of my greatest concerns. Our area is already experiencing tremendous development pressure. Before additional land is converted for a large-scale data center, the public deserves clear, independently verifiable information regarding the project's maximum

daily and annual water requirements, cooling system, source of water, effects on groundwater and surrounding wells, and plans during drought or water restrictions. These questions should be answered before approval—not after construction.

Noise is another serious concern. Data centers operate continuously. Cooling equipment, transformers, generators and other mechanical systems can create persistent noise, including low-frequency sound that may affect nearby residents differently than ordinary daytime commercial activity. I ask the Board to require a comprehensive 24-hour acoustic analysis that models expected noise at the nearest existing residences, including nighttime conditions, backup-generator testing and cumulative mechanical noise.

I am also concerned about **wildlife, habitat and the permanent loss of agricultural and open land.** Once land is converted to intensive industrial development, that decision is extremely difficult to reverse. Before recommending this change, the Board should have adequate environmental information concerning wetlands, wildlife habitat, protected species, drainage, habitat fragmentation and the cumulative effects of continued development in this area.

More broadly, I question whether a development of this intensity is **compatible with the surrounding community and the long-term land-use vision for this area.** The fact that a project can potentially be accommodated through a land-use or zoning change does not necessarily mean that the change is appropriate.

I also object to meaningful public decisions on a project of this magnitude occurring at **2:00 p.m. on a weekday.** I understand that this may be the Planning Board's regularly scheduled meeting time, but that does not change the practical effect: many teachers, parents, business owners and other working residents cannot leave work in the middle of the afternoon to participate.

I am one of them.

My inability to physically attend this hearing should not be interpreted as a lack of concern or opposition. I am taking the time to submit this letter precisely because this decision matters to me and to the future of our community.

I respectfully request that the Planning Board **not recommend approval of the proposed land-use and zoning changes at this time**. At minimum, I ask that action be postponed until the public has had adequate opportunity to review comprehensive information regarding water demand, noise, environmental impacts, infrastructure and compatibility with surrounding properties, and until residents have been provided a meaningful opportunity to participate at an accessible public hearing.

Development decisions made today will shape this community for decades. We should not permanently transform agricultural and open land for an extraordinarily intensive industrial use until we are confident that the consequences have been fully examined and that the interests of the people who already live here have been adequately protected.

Please confirm receipt of this correspondence and that it will be included in the public record for the September 17, 2026 Planning Board hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tara Borsman Gneist



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