Exhibit A

Testimony for the Lake Park, FL Commission Meeting 11/4/2026

Regarding: *Ongoing Lawsuit Deliberations*

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Good evening, Mr. Mayor and Commissioners,

I am here tonight because I believe this moment tests our municipality's leadership, its commitment to transparency, and its respect for the residents it serves.

Growth and development planning is now on a brief hiatus. With two lawsuits under long court-approved stays and one under a motion to dismiss awaiting adjudication, we can reflect and carefully consider not only our legal position but also how we might move forward together in our town's decision-making process.

I recognize that the Commission has a responsibility to consult with the Town Attorney and receive confidential legal advice. However, legal strategy should not become the town's vision strategy.

A balance of coexistence is necessary between protecting the municipality's legal interests and protecting the public's right to *participate* up front in decisions that affect our future.

Residents should not be left on the sidelines while decisions are shaped behind closed doors. We deserve to understand the issues, hear the reasoning behind proposed courses of action, and have meaningful opportunities to *offer input* before decisions are finalized.

At first glance, one might appreciate the town's and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's plan to create marina-related public workshops (aside from yet another consultant expense to take notes and bring donuts; you or town staff could conduct these meetings). But then what happens from these workshops, and what's the plan for moving forward? This example is what I mean by opportunities for meaningful *proactive engagement*. We get snippets of the thinking out of context, and not a full roadmap we can help achieve.

Maybe this workshop initiative is driven by some settlement intentions. We can only guess. But it should also include frequent updates to residents on your decisions.

Your residents are not adversarial. Mostly, we support your hard work. There is nothing to fear in our engagement. We seek insight behind the directions you are formulating. We are the very people who exercised our collective wisdom to elect you. Now tap that same collective wisdom to help maneuver and position us toward legal remedies and long-term visions of what our town might look like.

The town's future belongs to its residents, and their voices must be part of real-time ongoing deliberations. Thank you.