



St. Augustine: Preservation vs. Makeover - Dynamics of Public Policy in America's Oldest City

Don D. Berglund

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The book, *St. Augustine: Preservation vs. Makeover — Dynamics of Public Policy in America's Oldest City*, details the conflicts and resolution surrounding such noteworthy issues as the building of the new Bridge of Lions, the debate over the proposed Lightner parking garage, the closing of the Ponce de Leon Golf Course, and — more recently — the controversy surrounding the construction of the proposed Cordova Inn and the town-and-gown challenge.

Berglund, a transplant to St. Augustine from Lincoln, Nebraska, said he was fascinated upon his arrival in the Oldest City with the ways history and tradition influence public policy making. He also found himself asking questions about how the city's long history continues to play into public opinion when it comes to issues of development, change and politics.

“As a public policy specialist, I naturally follow public issues and controversies. I began to ask myself this question: how much does St. Augustine's historical background affect public policy decision making?” said Berglund. “This book is a study of how the past continues to affect the present lives and fortunes of St. Augustinians, and those who hope one day to count themselves as one of us.”

In total, the book examines nine controversies that captured the attention of St. Augustine residents since 2003:

- the Lightner parking garage controversy
- the closing of the historic Ponce de Leon Golf Course
- the Bridge of Lions dispute over whether to build a new bridge or to rehabilitate the old one
- the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and its effort to obtain Eminent Domain status
- the debate over flags being allowed to fly on the Bridge of Lions
- the horse-drawn carriage dispute
- ongoing town-and-gown challenges
- the recent Cordova Inn debate
- problems related to operation of the Planning and Zoning Board

In the last chapter, Dr. Berglund outlines conclusions and recommendations drawn from the chapters and offers suggestions on the best ways St. Augustine can move ahead into the future from here.

St. Augustine: Preservation vs. Makeover—Public Policy Making in America's Oldest City will be released in late August by Old Kings Road Press, a publisher specializing in Florida history books.

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David Otten:

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