

8:36

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Temporary Fuel Surcharge – Response to Residents



Kathy Villalba Admin +2
CEO | Founding Partner • 1m

Dear Residents,

After spending the last 16 hours carefully reviewing your emails, Circle posts, and hearing of discussions onboard, one point has become very clear to me.

Our intention was to present this as a temporary community initiative to help Villa Vie navigate an extraordinary and unforeseen increase in fuel costs resulting from geopolitical events and supply chain disruptions.

The proposed fuel surcharge was never intended to be a mandatory amendment to your contract.

For those who have already stepped forward and contributed, Mike and I are deeply grateful for your support and your belief in this community.

For those who are unable to participate, or who believe that their agreements do not contemplate additional charges, I want you to know that we understand and respect your position completely.

What are your thoughts?



We are simply asking those who are willing and



8:36

5G



We recognize that the announcement was made with very little time for Residents to absorb the information, consider the impact on their personal finances, and determine how they would respond.

In the fast-moving environment in which Mike and I often operate, we sometimes have to shift quickly from one urgent matter to another. In this case, we did not fully appreciate the amount of time the community would need to process a decision of this nature.

2. Contractual Questions

Many of you immediately turned to your agreements and asked a very important and legitimate question: how does this proposal fit within the existing contractual framework?

That is a fair question, and one that deserves a thoughtful response which I will provide below.

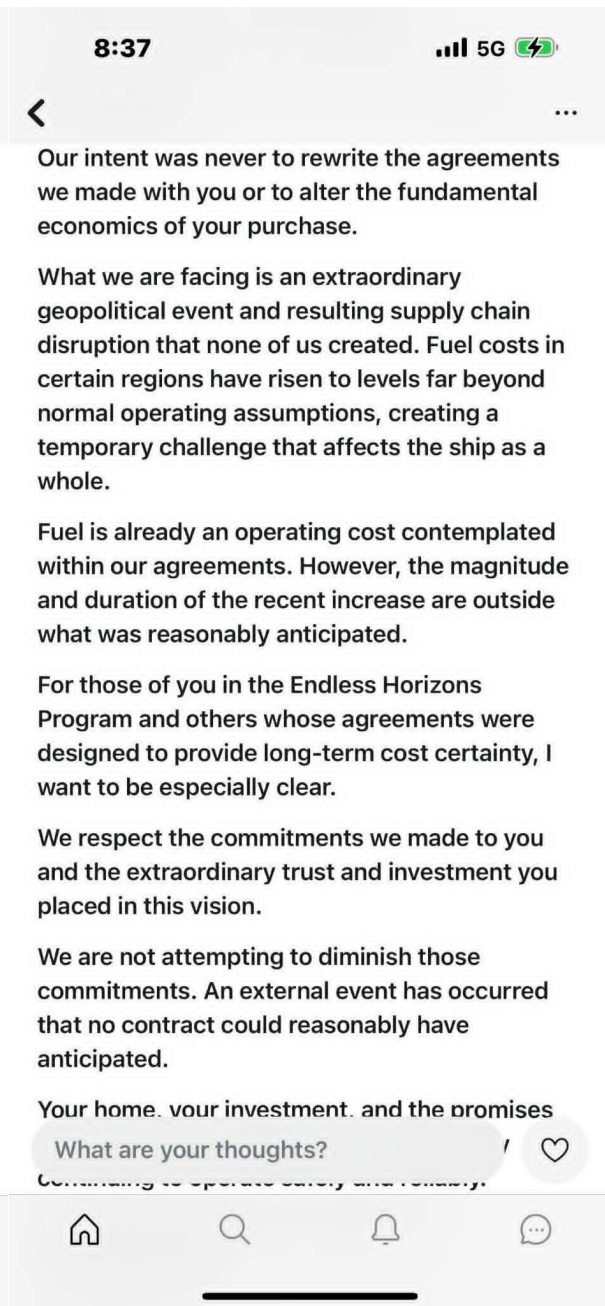
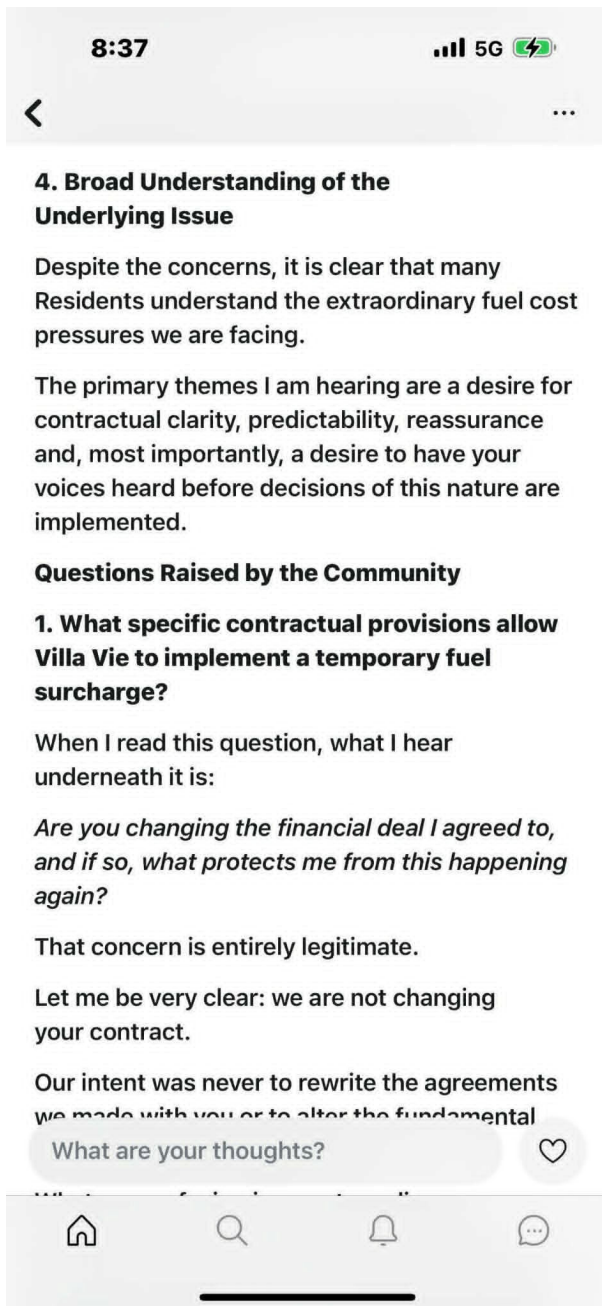
3. Emotional Reactions and Uncertainty

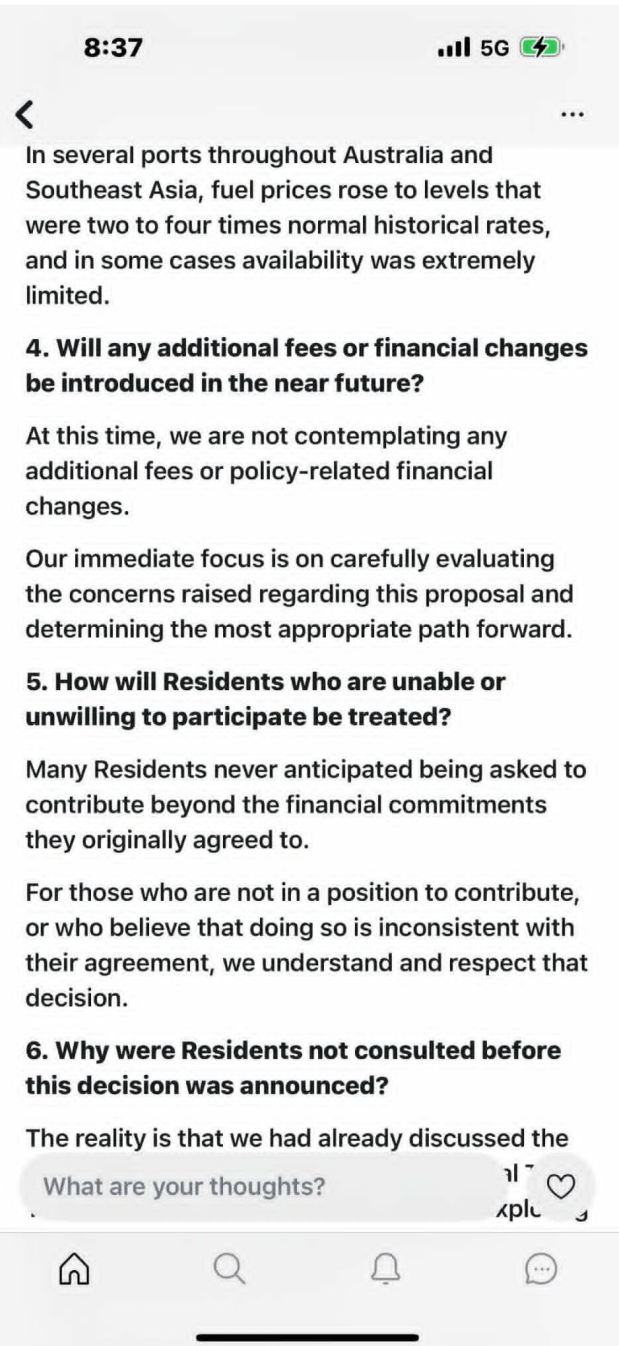
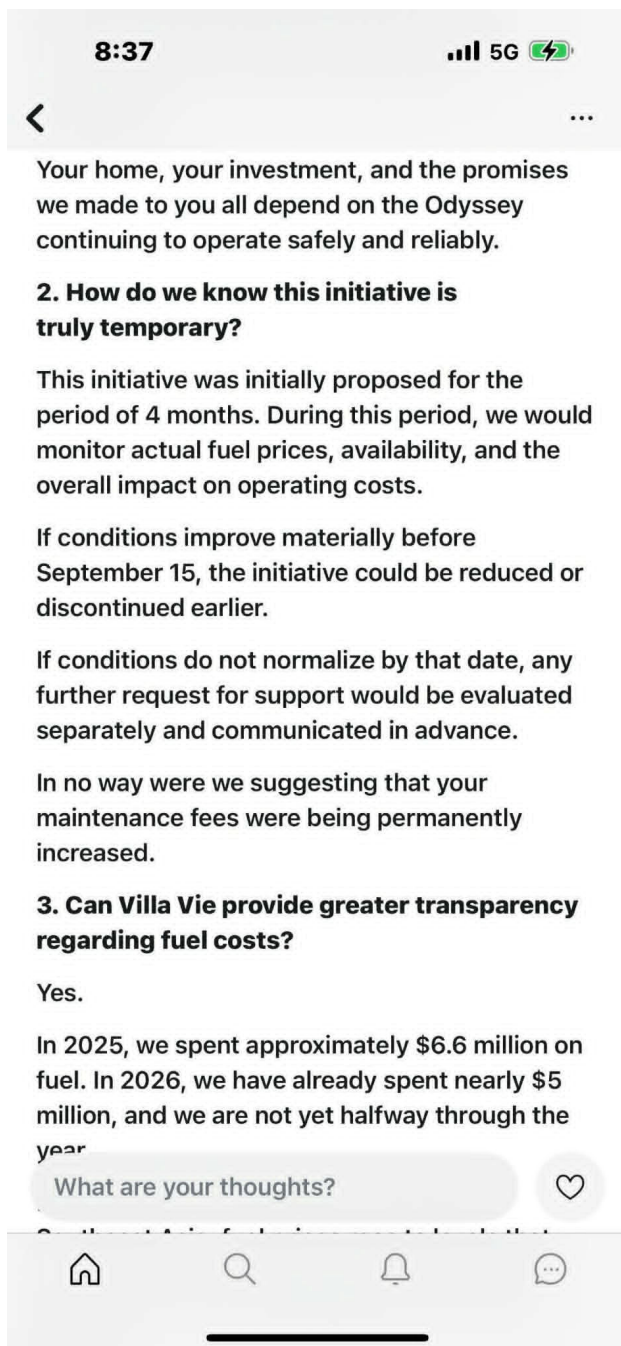
Any unexpected financial request naturally creates anxiety, particularly for those living on fixed incomes or managing carefully planned long-term budgets.

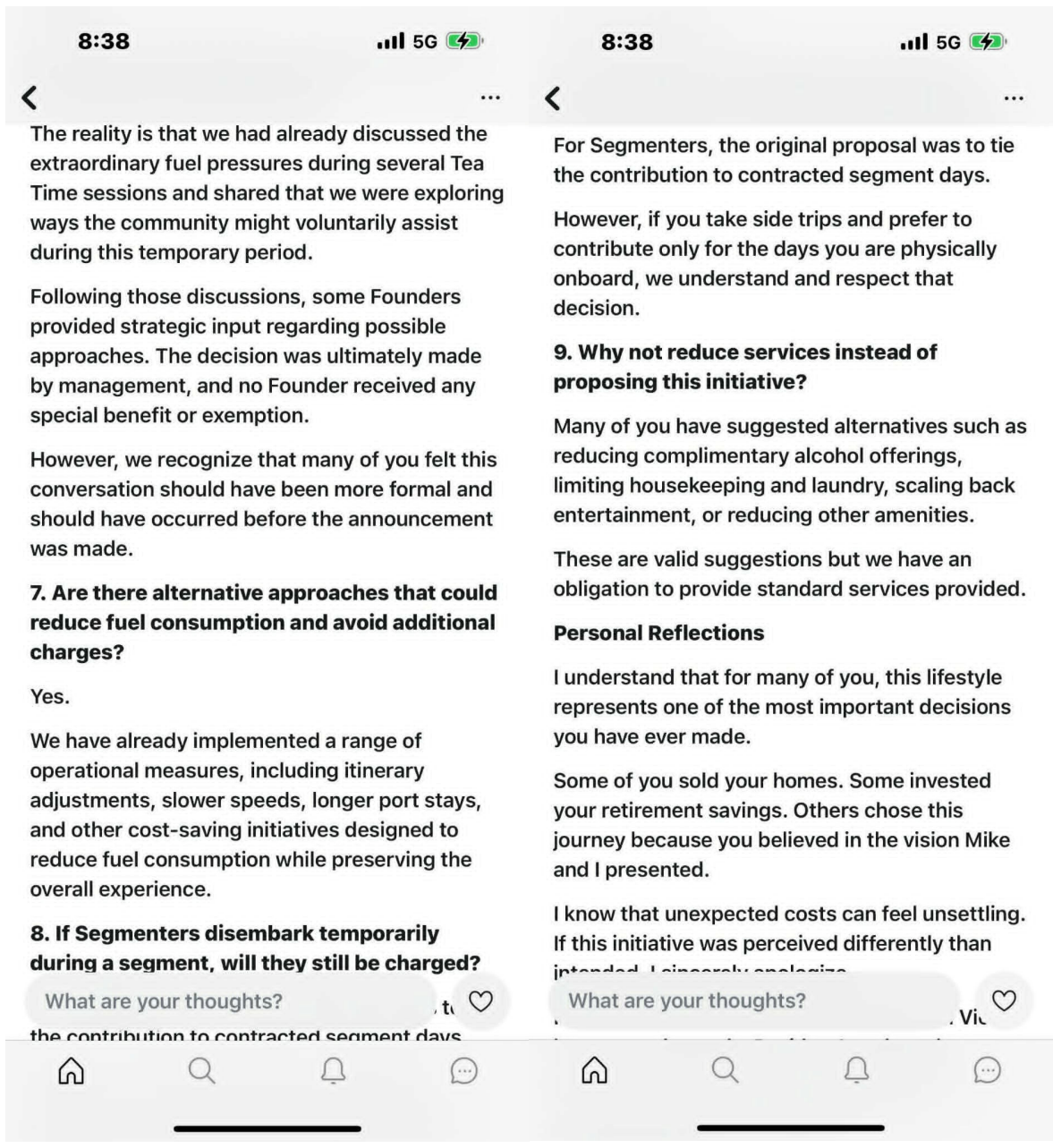
I understand that for some of you, this proposal created genuine stress and uncertainty.

What are your thoughts?









8:38

5G



The reality is that we had already discussed the extraordinary fuel pressures during several Tea Time sessions and shared that we were exploring ways the community might voluntarily assist during this temporary period.

Following those discussions, some Founders provided strategic input regarding possible approaches. The decision was ultimately made by management, and no Founder received any special benefit or exemption.

However, we recognize that many of you felt this conversation should have been more formal and should have occurred before the announcement was made.

7. Are there alternative approaches that could reduce fuel consumption and avoid additional charges?

Yes.

We have already implemented a range of operational measures, including itinerary adjustments, slower speeds, longer port stays, and other cost-saving initiatives designed to reduce fuel consumption while preserving the overall experience.

8. If Segmenters disembark temporarily during a segment, will they still be charged?

What are your thoughts?



the contribution to contracted segment days



8:38

5G



For Segmenters, the original proposal was to tie the contribution to contracted segment days.

However, if you take side trips and prefer to contribute only for the days you are physically onboard, we understand and respect that decision.

9. Why not reduce services instead of proposing this initiative?

Many of you have suggested alternatives such as reducing complimentary alcohol offerings, limiting housekeeping and laundry, scaling back entertainment, or reducing other amenities.

These are valid suggestions but we have an obligation to provide standard services provided.

Personal Reflections

I understand that for many of you, this lifestyle represents one of the most important decisions you have ever made.

Some of you sold your homes. Some invested your retirement savings. Others chose this journey because you believed in the vision Mike and I presented.

I know that unexpected costs can feel unsettling. If this initiative was perceived differently than intended, I sincerely apologize.

What are your thoughts?



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