



MINUTES

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rumrell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Dylan Rumrell, Vice Mayor Beth Sweeny, and Commissioners Undine C. George, Donald Samora, and Virginia Morgan.

Also present were City Manager Max Royle, City Attorney Jeremiah Blocker, Police Chief Daniel Carswell, City Clerk Dariana Fitzgerald, Finance Director Patty Douylliez, Building Official Brian Law, Public Works Director Ken Gatchell, and Engineering Director Jason Sparks.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING ON JANUARY 8, 2024

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular Commission meeting on January 8, 2024. **Moved** by Commissioner Samora, **Seconded** by Vice Mayor Sweeny. Motion passed unanimously.

V. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS OF THE AGENDA

There were none.

VI. CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF TOPICS ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Interview of Ms. Sarah Ryan for Position of Junior Alternate on Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board

Ms. Sarah Ryan stated that she has been an architect for twenty years and in business here for ten. She served on the City of St. Augustine's Planning and Zoning Board for eight years, and was the chair for a year. She noted that she is familiar with the codes since she has worked on projects in the City.

Commissioner George asked if she was presented with a project scheduled to come before the Board, would she be comfortable stepping down from that given the conflict of interest.

Ms. Ryan stated that she would inform the City Attorney in advance, recuse herself, and fill out the appropriate form.

The Commissioners noted Ms. Ryan's professional experience from her application and resumes and thanked her for her willingness to volunteer.

Motion: to appoint Sarah Ryan to the position of Junior Alternate on Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board. **Moved by** Commissioner George, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Sweeny. Motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor moved to the next item.

B. Report by Ms. Melinda Conlon, City's Events and Communications Coordinator, About the City's Holiday Season Events

Events Coordinator Conlon reported that the 2023 holiday events went well and helped to support local businesses and the art community during the slower winter season. She stated that there was an Art Walk the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Surf illumination on the first Saturday in December with the Civic Association, the Holiday market on the second Saturday, and then the Light Up the Night firework show on December 31st.

She showed a flyer of the events for 2024 [Exhibit A] and noted that it was similar to 2023, but there was a big addition with the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights demonstrations on the beach and the City will be having an event in June in association with the St. John's Cultural Council.

She thanked the City's Police and Public Works Departments for their effort on these events along with the sponsors, community partners, local businesses, and local artists.

The Mayor moved to the next item.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Mayor opened Public Comments.

Michel Pawlowski, 109 Kings Quarry Lane, St. Augustine Beach, FL, expressed his concerns about preparedness against nuclear attack and shared a copy of an article he submitted to The Wall Street Journal [Exhibit B]. He stated that he also spoke on this topic at a St. Johns County Commission meeting and asked them for a report on what they are doing to prepare for protection against nuclear radiation fallout, survival, and recovery.

Roderick Smith, 454 Ocean Forest Drive, St. Augustine Beach, FL, stated that he was a new resident and concerned about the City's recycling program. He noted that the City collects fewer materials than the surrounding areas and would like to figure out a way for the City to recycle more materials.

Mayor Rumrell suggested Mr. Smith contact the City Manager or Public Works for more information on the City's recycling program. City Manager Royle added that there is only a market for certain materials, which is what the City collects.

Jim LeClare, 115 Whispering Oaks Circle, St. Augustine Beach, FL, commented that he is still concerned about the speed limit on SR-A1A and plans to canvass neighbors and contact the State to see what can be done.

The Mayor closed Public Comments.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mayor Rumrell opened Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Samora reported that he had attended the TDC (Tourist Development Committee) meeting and that the State is considering a Black History Museum with St. Johns County as a potential site. He stated that St. Augustine's mayor had written a letter of support and suggested this Commission consider if they'd like to do the same and shared a booklet with information on the proposal [Exhibit C].

Commissioner Morgan reported that she attended the League of Cities dinner that was held at in St. Augustine along with Vice Mayor Sweeny. She noted that the speaker there discussed several bills coming fore the State Legislature and advised the Commissioners and residents to be aware of what may affect our community.

Commissioner George reported that she attended the Ron Park Memorial and one of the speakers is a retired police officer who wrote a poem that she found moving and she shared copies [Exhibit D]. She also stated that a resident had contacted her about a proposed rezoning request on West 16th Street and she wanted to make everyone aware of the concerns, particularly about water runoff [Exhibit E].

Vice Mayor Sweeny reported that we have nearly \$5 million in projects in the House budget from the State this year and potentially more from the Senate. She thanked the legislative delegation, Representative Cyndi Stevenson, Speaker Paul Renner, and Senator Travis Hutson, for prioritizing those projects and Chair Thad Altman from the committee that oversees a lot of the water projects.

Mayor Rumrell reported that he was just in Tallahassee last week and we now have four projects funded for \$11.6 million, just needs the Governor and Senate to support it. He thanked the Vice Mayor for her help and support to get those appropriations.

He commented that William "Bill" Mignon, a long time St. Augustine School Board member passed away today and shared his condolences to the Mignon family. Vice Mayor Sweeny stated that she had worked with him for many years on the School Board and he had made a lasting impact.

Mayor Rumrell closed Commissioner Comments.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Ordinance 24-01, Second Reading, to Amend Section 3.02.05 of the Land Development Regulations Pertaining to Parking Regulations for Special Events for Business/Promotional/Sales Permits on Privately-Owned Property in a Commercial Land Use District (Presenter: Jennifer Thompson, City Planner)

Planner Thompson stated this came about because a small business wanted to host a special event and currently our code only allows businesses that have 25 parking spaces on site to do so. This proposed change was developed with the Planning and Zoning Board so that instead of a flat 25 spaces, there must be at least 50% of onsite parking spaces available for parking by the public, and 100% of the accessible parking must be available, which would be more beneficial to smaller businesses.

Commissioner George suggested adjusting the language to read "and 100% of the accessible parking must be available, which may be inclusive within the 50% minimum onsite parking".

The Commission asked for clarifications on wording for odd numbers of spaces and ingress/egress access during these events. Building Official Law replied that these permits are all reviewed on a case-by-case basis, so those situations would be dealt with when and if they come up since every building and facility is different.

Mayor Rumrell opened Public Comment. There was none.

City Attorney Blocker read the preamble of Ordinance 24-01.

Motion: to approve Ordinance 24-01 with additional language in Paragraph F. **Moved by** Commissioner George, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Sweeny. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rumrell moved to the next Item.

XI. CONSENT

(Note: Consent items can be approved by one motion and vote unless a Commissioner wants to remove an item for discussion and a separate vote)

2. Resolution 24-01, to Have Canvassing of Vote-by-Mail Ballots for the March 19, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary Election Done by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections

Motion: to approve Resolution 24-01. **Moved by** Commissioner Samora, **Seconded by** Commissioner George. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rumrell moved to the next Item.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

3. Adoption of St. Johns County Amended Beach Code (Presenter: Chief of Police Dan Carswell)

Chief Carswell reported that the St. Johns County Commission approved an amended beach code. He stated that the City has followed the County's beach code since 2007 and this would just be adopting the update. He noted some main changes were regulations for drones, not taking off or landing on the beach, and e-bikes. This change adds language for careless operation of e-bikes on the beach, which includes speeding and failing to yield the right of way to the pedestrians. He commented that Florida Statute already covers e-bikes riding against the flow of traffic and on sidewalks, as well as requiring helmets for anyone sixteen and under.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this gave the Police the regulations they need to enforce safety on the beach. Chief Carswell replied that it does, that there were already regulations for the roads, only the beach was lacking. He commented that the City, St. Augustine, and the County were still discussing the issues, but he liked where they're at for now.

Commissioner Samora asked about educational campaigns. Chief Carswell replied that they've been sharing the information on social media and the community officer, Officer Ed Martinez, has been speaking to the schools, there are also resources from the State. He noted that he was planning to speak with the HOAs (Home Owners' Associations) soon as well.

Vice Mayor Sweeny clarified that e-bikes can still ride on the beach so long as they're not weaving in and out of people causing safety concerns and ride at a safe speed. Chief Carswell agreed and noted that the speed limit on the beach was ten miles per hour.

Motion: to adopt the St. Johns County Amended Beach Code. **Moved by** Commissioner George, **Seconded by** Commissioner Samora. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rumrell moved to the next Item.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

XIV. STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Rumrell opened Staff Comments.

City Manager Royles asked who would write and sign the letter for the Black History Museum proposal. Commissioner Morgan suggested using the one St. Augustine sent. Mayor Rumrell agreed to sign it.

Vice Mayor Sweeny commented that the new County Administrator, Joy Andrews, would be at the Economic Development Council breakfast on February 23rd to present on the vision, transparency, and new policies of the County.

Engineering Director Sparks reported that A Street parking lot is underway and is still on schedule to be completed by or before June 1st.

In response to Vice Mayor Sweeny, Public Works Director Gatchell confirmed that beach renourishment was still on schedule to start sometime this month.

Mayor Rumrell closed Staff Comments and moved to the next Item.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Rumrell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: to adjourn. **Moved by** Commissioner George, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Sweeny. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rumrell adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.



Dylan Rumrell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dariana Fitzgerald, City Clerk

2024 Events

Beach Blvd. Clean Up – March 16

Arbor Day – April 26

Art & Bark in the Park – Art Fair – May 18

Civil Rights Anniversary Event – June Date TBD

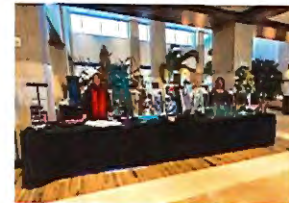
NE Florida League of Cities Dinner – October 17

Beach Art Walk – November 23

Surf Illumination – December 7

Holiday Market – December 14

Light Up the Night! NYE Fireworks Show! – December 31



Exhibit

A

Date

2-05-2024

Wall Street Journal Letter To The Editor Opinion Page Submission
by
Dr. Michel S. Pawlowski, D.Sc., CEM

Why is the U.S. Population Being Held Hostage in Our National Security and National Defense Strategy?

Today, more than ever the United States is faced with rivalry with China, Russia, and other authoritarian States. Eight (8) States have successfully detonated nuclear weapons.

- United States
- Russia
- United Kingdom
- France
- China
- India
- Pakistan
- North Korea

Israel is also generally known to have nuclear weapons but does not acknowledge it. ("Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What At A Glance"
<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>). July 2019)

Iran is on a path to develop a nuclear weapon capability. According to a recent article in the Jerusalem Post, July 31, 2022, an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps threatens to produce an atomic warhead to turn New York City into hellish ruins. Since the dawn of the nuclear age, the Risks to Society have increased with the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

But we must also consider the actions of State Actors like Vladimir Putin who has threatened to use nuclear weapons in the Ukraine war. Do we want to leave our public vulnerable to nuclear blackmail? It is conceivable that he and others would also consider the use of nuclear weapons as a means of war and by undercover terrorists, especially when we have Open Borders as we have today.

We need to strengthen our vitality and resilience here at home. The potential crisis we could face domestically with a terrorist nuclear weapon detonation or large-scale strategic attack would be daunting.

We must be prepared to increase capabilities to detect and locate a nuclear device to prevent a terrorist detonation in order to prevent the effects of those weapons or a confrontation with a nuclear power. Population Protection and Deterrence is dependent upon prior detail planning and capability building. However, over the years, we have let Population Protection as a strategy, fall to the wayside and be on the back burner, why? It should be a current national focus. Population Protection is not included in our National Security Guidance.

Consider the impact of a nuclear detonation on a large population area, specifically the New York City area and surrounding jurisdictions based upon a terrorist detonation of a 10-kiloton nuclear device in Times Square, New York City, its immediate impact and on the surrounding jurisdictions.

Based upon a scenario provided by the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center (REACTS), Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, if such a device is detonated:

- There would be 4 million people in the path and area of fallout.
- There would be approximately 1 million casualties and acute deaths
- 50% burns and traumas within 0.8 km.
- Of the estimated 64,000 who would survive, they would have severe radiation doses.

The whole medical system (which is not in the immediate impacted area), and surrounding area would be in a crisis mode and without prior training and exercising of existing response plans would be overloaded.

Imagine the same type of scenario of a device detonated on the West Coast, a large metropolitan area such as Los Angeles, Portland, or Seattle and the impact on the interior of our country. Not only would we be concerned with the immediate area, but the radioactive fallout cloud would have a significant impact on the national land area it goes over. There would be severe consequences across the full spectrum of our society.

Our National Security Strategic Guidance as well as our National Defense Strategy both released in October 2022, makes no mention of dealing domestically with the effects of nuclear weapons. A nuclear terrorism incident threat if not mitigated to prevent a potential detonation or large-scale attack will result in a Public Health Crisis and a challenge to response, survival, and recovery.

We need to train and exercise a large cadre of professionals with diverse skills and enhanced capabilities to ensure development of proactive enhanced Population Protection Planning at the National, State and Local level to strengthen our National Security. States must have their respective Radiological Emergency Response capabilities expanded to meet the full spectrum of potential threats.

There should be a clear Policy Statement incorporated today in our National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy on Domestic Population Preparedness for nuclear detonations. It is time for a dialogue on what our Domestic National Security for the Homeland should include Population Protection and be incorporated in today's National Security Strategy as well as National Defense Strategy.

An interesting statement is incorporated in the National Defense Strategy of October 22, 2022: "US Nuclear Forces are postured to withstand an INITIAL attack."

The supreme question remains: What about the surviving population? Where is that addressed?

Respectfully submitted for publication by:

Dr. Michel S. Pawlowski, D.Sc., CEM
109 Kings Quarry Lane
St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080
michelpawlowski@outlook.com
(410) 271-6820

The above article is based upon a presentation made to the 70th Conference of the International Association of Emergency Managers, Savannah, Georgia, November 14, 2022.

Short Biography:

Organizer and Coordinator of the 1st and 2nd Governor's Conference on Nuclear Energy in Indiana

Detailed from Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support Offsite Emergency Management Planning for Three Mile Island

Testified before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for Restart Hearings for Three Mile Island

Former Member of the Tri-Services Radiac Instrumentation Group

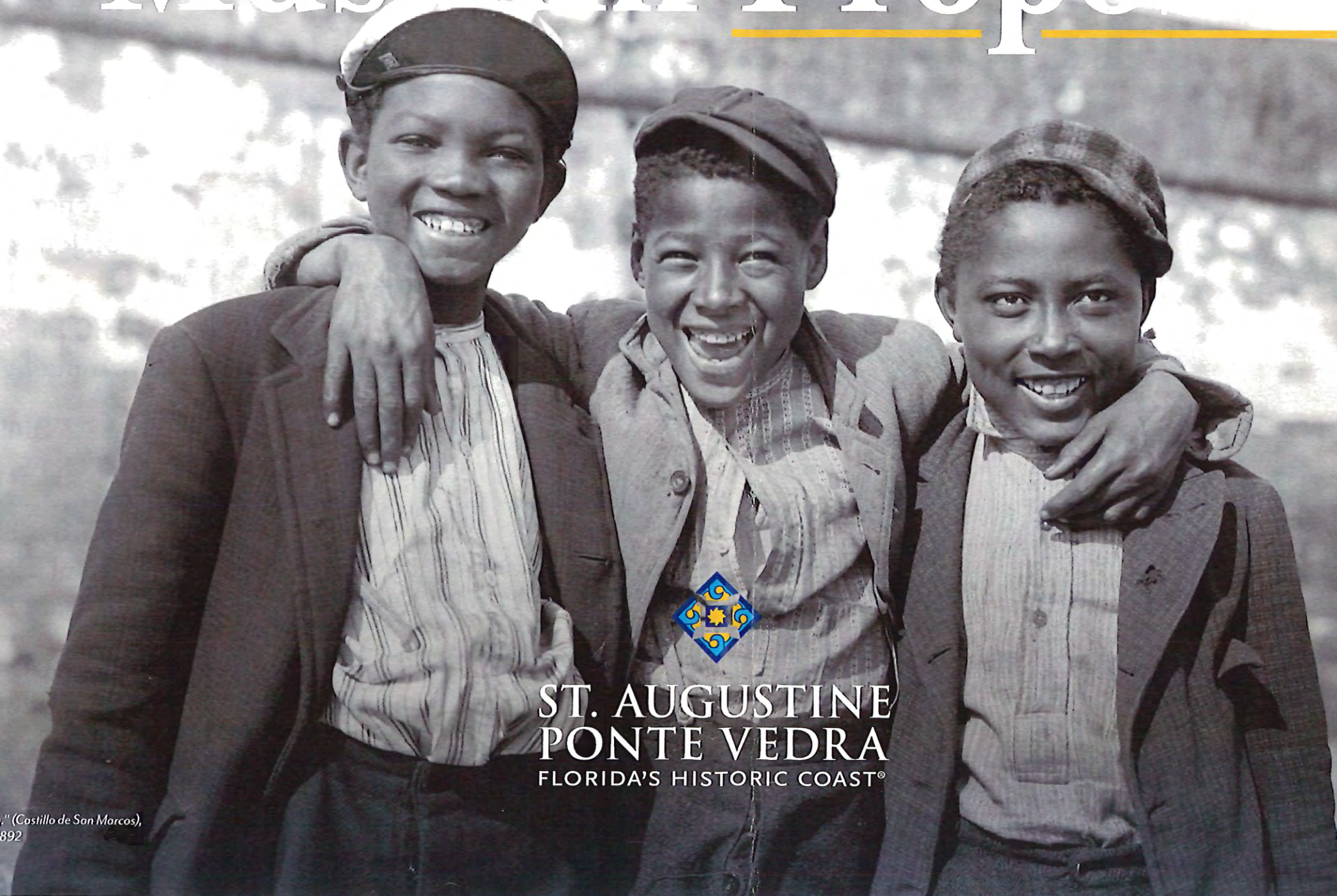
Former Member of the NATO Detection and Warning Committee

Former practicing Health Physicist and instructor on the Effects of Nuclear Weapons

Former faculty member of Indiana University, Bloomington, IN and The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Detailed from the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA) and FEMA to support Continuity of Government Planning for the White House Military Office for four (4) years

Black History Museum Proposal



ST. AUGUSTINE
PONTE VEDRA
FLORIDA'S HISTORIC COAST®

"Happy as the day is long." (Castillo de San Marcos),
William Henry Jackson, 1892

Exhibit C-1

Date 2-05-2024

St. Augustine

St. Augustine, Florida is the oldest continuously occupied European settlement in the United States. Our destination was settled by Spanish explorers in 1565 on lands inhabited by the indigenous Timucua. It has been home to many cultures –Native American, Spanish, African, Greek, Minorcan, French, and British. Today, living history interpreters immerse visitors in St. Augustine's nearly five centuries of history at two National Park monuments – the Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas – and at Fort Mose, the first free Black community in the United States. Dozens of historic sites, including the homes of authors Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, await your visit. Walk in the footsteps of Martin Luther King, Jr. and learn about St. Augustine's pivotal role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act® the ACCORD and Lincolnville Museums.

► Historical Tourism Capital of Florida



Tourism

Economic Impact in
St. Johns County

- ◆ **3.0 Million**
Annual Visitors
- ◆ **\$2.3 Billion**
Direct Spending
- ◆ **\$3.8 Billion**
Total Economic
Impact
- ◆ **32,400**
Jobs Supported
by Tourism

Florida's Historic Coast Economic
Impact Report July 2021-June 2022,
Downs & St. Germain Research

Exhibit E-2

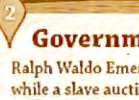
Date 2-05-2024

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN ST. AUGUSTINE



The First Black General

General Jorge Biassou, a leader of the slave uprising in Haiti in 1791, became a Spanish general and lived in St. Augustine from 1796 until his death in 1801. He lived at 42 St. George Street, commanded a militia out of Fort Matanzas, and is buried in an unmarked grave in Tolomato Cemetery on Cordova Street.



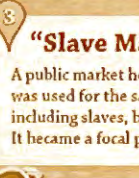
Government House

Ralph Waldo Emerson attended a bible meeting inside Government House while a slave auction took place in the courtyard.



Nora August (1860)

A Union soldier occupying St. Simon's Island carved an ivory bust of this freed slave while she posed for immortality. According to the inscription, she was "Purchased from the Market, St. Augustine, Florida April 17 1860."



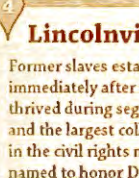
"Slave Market" (1824)

A public market house built in the 1820's was used for the sale of many things, including slaves, before the Civil War. It became a focal point for civil rights demonstrations in the 1960's.



Fort Mose

Founded in 1738 as the northern defense of St. Augustine, Fort Mose was populated by African freedom seekers who had escaped enslavement in South Carolina and given sanctuary by the Spanish. 2 miles north of the Castillo de San Marcos



Lincolnville Historic District (1866)

Former slaves established this neighborhood as "Little Africa" immediately after the Civil War. Later renamed Lincolnville, it thrived during segregation, including a busy shopping district, churches, and the largest collection of Victorian houses in town. It played a major role in the civil rights movement in the 1960's. One of the main streets has been named to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Lincolnville Museum & Cultural Center

St. Augustine's first all black public high school now a museum. (1925)



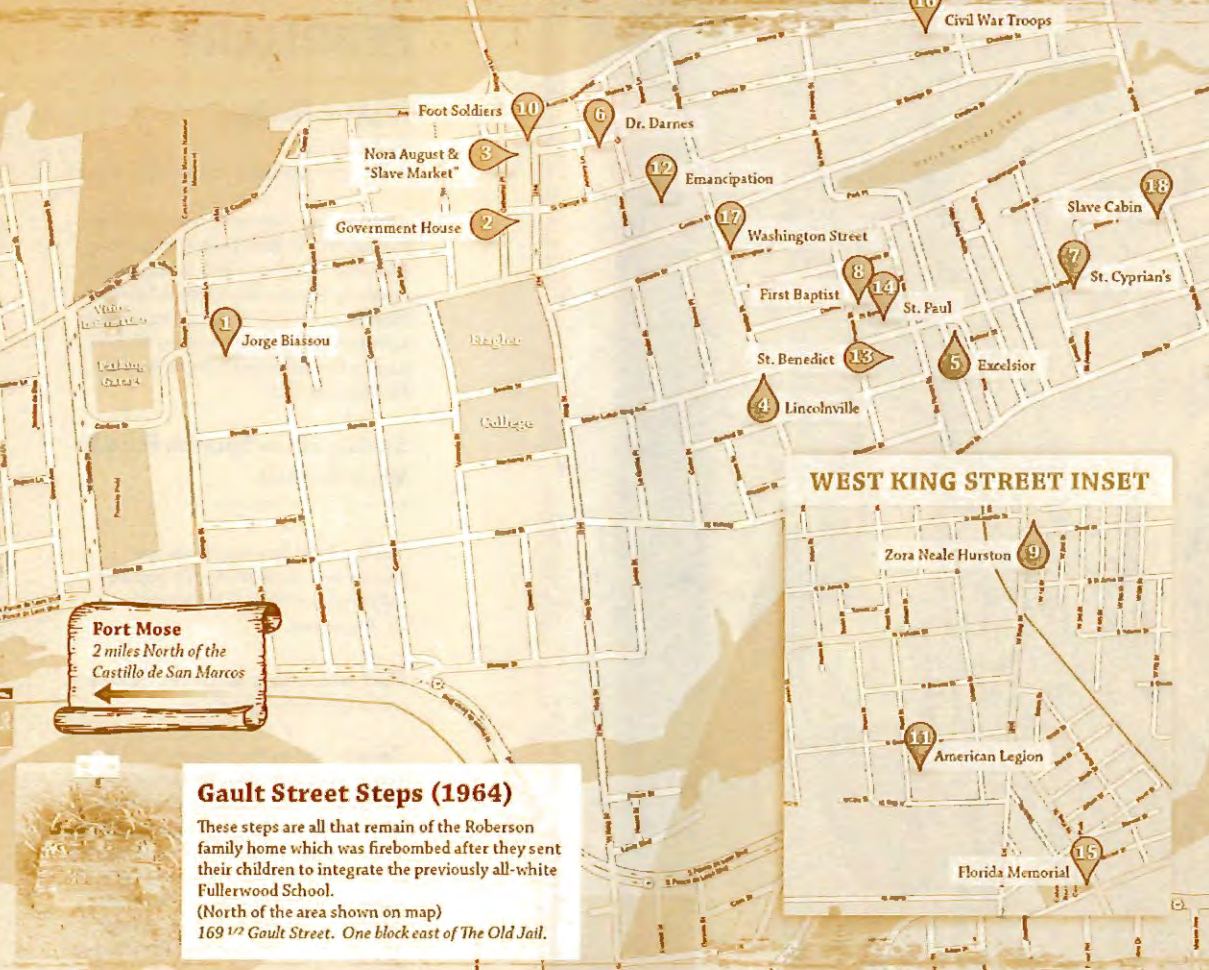
Dr. Aleck Darnes (1880)

Alexander Darnes grew up as a slave in the Segui-Kirby Smith House, where his statue now stands in the garden. After emancipation, he attended college and became the first black physician in Florida.



St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church (1900)

Founded by Africans, the church was built in 1900 and is the oldest church building in historic Lincolnville. The Gothic style wooden structure was beautifully restored in the 1990's and is one of the architectural ornaments of the city.



Fort Mose
2 miles North of the
Castillo de San Marcos

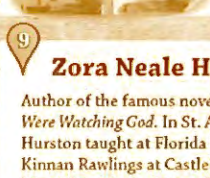
Gault Street Steps (1964)

These steps are all that remain of the Roberson family home which was firebombed after they sent their children to integrate the previously all-white Fullerwood School. (North of the area shown on map) 169 1/2 Gault Street. One block east of The Old Jail.



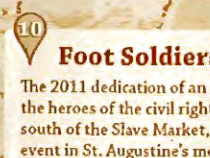
First Baptist Church (1916)

Replaced an earlier building destroyed by fire, this became one of the major churches where civil rights activities took place in the 1960's.



Zora Neale Hurston

Author of the famous novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. In St. Augustine, Hurston taught at Florida Normal College was friends with Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings at Castle Warden (now Ripley's). The plaque at 791 West King Street marks where Hurston lived in 1942.



Foot Soldiers Monument

The 2011 dedication of an artistic monument honoring the heroes of the civil rights movement, just a few feet south of the Slave Market, celebrates the most important event in St. Augustine's modern history.



American Legion Post 194 (1937)

Begun as the Colored Veterans of World War I in 1937, it became the Lincolnville American Legion Post in the 1940's and moved to West Augustine in the late 1950's, where it is named in honor of Alton Green. This post remains very active in community affairs.



Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 was read to the slaves at this spot.



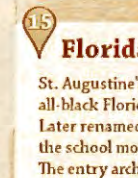
St. Benedict School (1898)

The oldest brick school building in St. Augustine was a gift of Mother Katherine Drexel, who became a Catholic Saint in 2000. In 1916, three of St. Benedict's teaching nuns were arrested for violating the Florida law that forbade white teachers to teach black students.



St. Paul A.M.E. Church (1904)

Built in 1904 for a congregation dating back to 1873, this church was the birth of A.M.E. in St. Augustine. Dr. Martin Luther King and Jackie Robinson spoke at rallies here during the civil rights struggle.



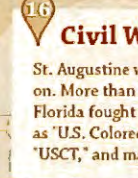
Florida Memorial College (1918)

St. Augustine's first college was the all-black Florida Normal College. Later renamed Florida Memorial, the school moved to Miami in 1968. The entry arch is all that survives of the school's structure.



Ray Charles (1937)

Ray Charles was a student at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind from 1937 to 1945. His piano is on display at the Lincolnville Museum & Cultural Center.



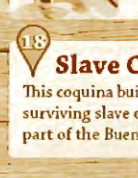
Civil War Troops (1862)

St. Augustine was under Union control from 1862 on. More than 1,000 ex-slaves from northeast Florida fought to end slavery with the Union army as "U.S. Colored Troops." Their graves are marked "USCT," and many of their descendants live here today.



Washington Street

Washington Street was the Main Street of Black St. Augustine for a century. Significant historic buildings like St. Mary's Baptist Church, the Frank Butler House, the Elks Rest and the Odd Fellows Hall can still be seen.



Slave Cabin

This coquina building is believed to be the last surviving slave cabin in St. Augustine. It was part of the Buena Esperanza Plantation, now south Lincolnville.



Living History Interpreter James Bullock shares a Flight to Freedom educational moment at Fort Mose. Photo: Gary LeVeille

▶ Annual Events ▶

FEBRUARY

Flight to Freedom

904.823.2232

www.floridastateparks.org/park/fort-mose

Flight to Freedom tells the story of the journey of freedom seekers beginning from 1687 through 1763. Learn about Spanish, African and Native American food traditions and culture from guest speakers and demonstrators. Musket and cannon demonstrations by the Fort Mose militia.

St. Augustine Spanish Food & Wine Festival

www.spanishwinefestival.com

Various food & wine events over three days, showcasing the Spanish influence on the culinary scene in St. Augustine

Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series

www.discoverfortmose.com

Taking place at the historic Fort Mose, this event celebrates the convergence of history, community, and music. It offers a truly unforgettable experience for music enthusiasts while also paying tribute to the historical significance of Fort Mose, which was the site of the first legally sanctioned free African settlement in which is now the United States.

MARCH

Menorcan Heritage Festival

904.540.3067

www.menarconsociety.net

Celebrate the anniversary of the Menorcons' arrival in St. Augustine at this festival featuring authentic Menorcan culture.

Celtic Music and Heritage Festival

904.315.8061

www.celticstaugustine.com

The sounds of the ancient Celtic people of Scotland and Ireland come alive with an event culminating with the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

MAY

Unidas en La Musica

www.unidosenlamusica.com

A celebration of authentic Latin food and music, featuring vendors, games, dance, workshops, cultural exhibitions and more.

JUNE

The Battle of Bloody Mose Commemoration

904.823.2232

www.floridastateparks.org/fortmose

The Battle of Bloody Mose reenactment provides visitors with an exciting look at the pivotal battle between the British under the command of Georgia's James Oglethorpe and the Spanish militia, composed of former British slaves who had been granted their freedom by the Spanish.

SEPTEMBER

Founders Day

877.352.4478

www.floridalivinghistory.org

Commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine in 1565.

Additional Resources:

Itinerary: African American Heritage in Historic St. Augustine - HistoricCoastCulture.com

Cultural Guide - HistoricCoastCulture.com (America's Cultural VIP)

Sing Out Loud

904.209.0367

www.singoutloudflorida.co

Florida's largest free music festival and benefit concert taking place over the course of four weekends at multiple venues.

NOVEMBER

Nights of Lights

www.nightsoflights.co

From mid-November through January, St. Augustine glows with more than 3 million white lights from the ground to the rooftops.

Hastings Main Street Fall Festival of Art

www.hastingsfla.org/festival-of-art

Hastings Main Street and the St. Augustine Art Association jointly present this event to attract art lovers, history buffs, and folks who just love small town hospitality and cultural celebrations, featuring special demonstrations and exhibits by two of the original Florida Highwaymen painters.

DECEMBER

Gullah Geechee Heritage Festival

www.gullahgeecheefestival.com

Experience the Gullah Geechee Heritage Festival, where traditional music, dance, food, and crafts converge in a special, free event.

► The Cultural and Historical Capital of America

ST. JOHNS COUNTY: The Birthplace of African American History

St. Augustine is the birthplace of African American history spanning from the arrival of Ponce de Leon in 1513 and includes a robust Black history through nationally significant events of the Civil Rights movement.

Significant Black History Events (1513):

First person of African descent arrives in America, Juan Garrido arrived with Ponce de Leon in 1513 as a free black conquistador.

- On September 8, 1565, with much pomp and circumstance and 600 voyagers cheering, Pedro Menéndez set foot on the shores of Florida. In honor of the saint whose feast day fell on the day he first sighted land, Menéndez named the colonial settlement St. Augustine after the Catholic Saint Augustine, a man of North African descent, part of present day Algeria. "An unjust law is no law at all" - St. Augustine of Hippo (Algeria, Africa) 354-430 A.D
- Founded in 1565, St. Augustine is the oldest continuously occupied settlement of European and African-American origin in the United States.
- In 1606, per the Cathedral Parish Archives, the first black child was born in what is now America. This birth is thirteen years before many textbooks say that the first blacks arrived at Jamestown in 1619.

Fort Mose (1738):

First Sanctioned Free Black Settlement, a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Slave Route Project Site of Memory.

- The first legally recognized community of free African Americans in the state.
- In 1738, the Spanish governor of Florida chartered the settlement of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, or Fort Mose for short, as a settlement for those fleeing slavery from the English colonies in the Carolinas.
- Over the next 25 years, Fort Mose and Spanish St. Augustine became a sanctuary for Africans seeking liberation from the tyranny of English slavery amidst a large-scale power struggle between European powers in the New World.
- Fort Mose is on the Florida Black Heritage Trail and the NPS highlights it as a precursor site of the Underground Railroad.

1800s - 1900s:

Public Market in the Plaza de la Constitución or 1824 Slave Market.

- At the center of the historic quarter in St. Augustine, stands the "Old Slave Market", an open-air pavilion where enslaved Africans were bought and sold.

- Site of some of the nation's worst violence for demonstrators during the civil rights movement.

Civil War Participation & Cemeteries

- During the Civil War, Black St. Augustinians served in both the Union and Confederate armies. Graves of Black Union Army troops are marked with U.S.C.I. (U.S. Colored Infantry)
- Pinehurst and San Sebastian Cemeteries located in West Augustine are believed to be the oldest segregated black cemeteries in Florida.

- Headstones date to as early as the 1840s. Many buried here were born into slavery, but later graves are those of World War I veterans and railroad workers who were not allowed to be buried in the same ground as their white counterparts.

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)

- African American woman officially a part of the US delegation that created the United Nations charter.
- Traveled St. Johns County as part of her educational efforts from Jacksonville to Daytona Beach.

Ray Charles attends Florida School of the Deaf and the Blind (1937-1945)

Similar to the Tuskegee airmen, Florida Normal and Industrial Institute had a Fourth Army Signal Corps program.



ST. AUGUSTINE, FL: The Start of the Civil Rights Movement (1963-1964) The Birthplace of African American History

Walking the same steps as the foot soldiers did during the civil rights movement

- The foot soldiers protested racial discrimination by marching, picketing, kneeling-in at churches, sitting-in at lunch counters, wading-in at beaches, attending rallies, raising money and persisted in the face of jailing, beatings, shootings, loss of employment, threats and other dangers.
- The citizens who marched in St. Augustine, who survived a staggering level of violence, are credited with helping to sustain the political pressure needed to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Dr. Robert Hayling - "Father of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

- Shortly after moving to St. Augustine, Dr. Hayling became the Advisor of the St. Augustine NAACP's Youth Council. Civil Rights movement planning

meetings were held at his dental office, and he became the head of the St. Augustine Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC).

- Civil rights leader who worked closest with MLK, Jr. to desegregate St. Augustine.

The St. Augustine Movement (1963-1964), was a series of peaceful protests and demonstrations which were responded to with violence, which led to more complicated protests.

The Splash Heard 'Round the World'

- On June 12, 1964, MLK, Jr. was arrested on the steps of the Monson Motor Lodge when he asked to be served at the whites-only hotel restaurant. He was taken to the Old St. Johns County Jail where he wrote to Rabbi Israel Dresner of New Jersey, encouraging rabbis to assist in the St. Augustine movement.

- This helped spur on a group of protesters, Black and White, to jump into the pool as a strategically planned event to end segregation at motel pools.

- On June 18, 1964, Sixteen rabbis were arrested at the Monson Motor Lodge for praying at the entrance. James Brock, the manager of the Monson Motor Lodge poured muriatic acid into the pool to get a group of White and Black integrationists out of the swimming pool. This swim-in was planned by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and other members of the movement.

- This incident made national headlines. The image shocked the world, that the next day the U.S. Congress finally passed the Civil Rights Act, outlawing segregation.

JOURNEY Civil Rights Teacher's Guide

https://sharesync.serverdata.net/us4/s/fe?public_share=a6vzAYuTVd8iwwVkw8pFcA003e583b

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks at a rally at a church in St. Augustine on June 11, 1964, before marching on downtown.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. returns to St. Augustine following that the Senate passed the Civil Rights bill June 19, 1964.

Exhibit C-6

Date 2-05-2021

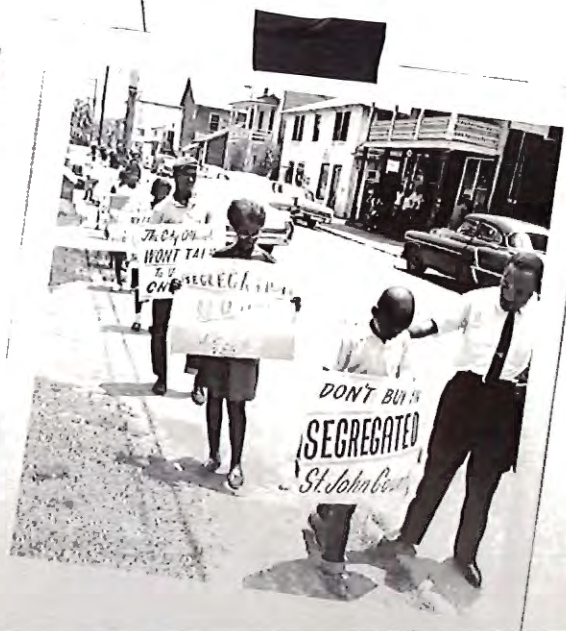


Exhibit C-7

Date 2-05-2024

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL: Florida Memorial University is a Historically Black University in Florida

Florida Memorial University is a private, coeducational, and Baptist-affiliated institution that has the distinction of being one of the oldest academic centers in the state, and a Historically Black University in Florida.

In 1879, members of the Bethlehem Baptist Association founded the school, then called Florida Baptist Institute, in Live Oak to create "a College of instruction for our ministers and children." The Reverend J. L. A. Fish was its first president. Despite a promising start, racial tensions soon cast a shadow over the Institute. In April 1892, after unknown persons fired shots into one of the school's buildings, then-President Rev. Matthew Gilbert and other staff members fled Live Oak for Jacksonville, where he founded the Florida Baptist Academy in the basement of Bethel Baptist Church. They began holding classes in May 1892, with Sarah Ann Blocker as the main instructor. The school in Live Oak, however, continued to operate even after this splintering.

In 1896, Nathan White Collier was appointed president of the Academy, a post he held for 45 years. President Collier recruited renowned composer and Jacksonville native, J. Rosamond Johnson, to teach music at the school. While in the employ of the Florida Baptist Academy, Rosamond composed music for "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," a poem written by his brother, James Weldon Johnson, creating the song that has since been enshrined as the "Negro National Anthem." It was first performed by a choir that included students from Florida Baptist Academy at a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1900.

The institution numerous graduates who would go on to acclaim within the state and nation, such as Earth M. M. White, the legendary business woman and community servant in Jacksonville; the Rev. Howard Thurman, a renowned figure in American theology, who was recognized in 1952 by Life Magazine as one of the twelve most influential religious leaders in the country; and Harry T. Moore, civil rights advocate and head of the Florida conference of the NAACP.

Because of the dual pressures of a growing student body and not enough space to expand, the Academy took advantage of an offer from the City of St. Augustine to relocate the institution to the 400-acre "Old Hansen

Plantation." The school began its third incarnation at its new home in St. Augustine on September 24, 1918, as the Florida Normal and Industrial Institute. Influenced by the educational model popularized by Booker T. Washington at his Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, students were encouraged to be industrious and self-sufficient, constructing many of the campus buildings themselves, as well as growing and preparing their own food. The students received hands-on training in the practical fields which would allow them to support themselves and their families.

In 1942, the Baptist General State Convention voted to merge its two schools, closing down the Florida Institute at Live Oak and combining it with what would become Florida Normal Industrial and Memorial College in St. Augustine. Florida native and writer of the Harlem Renaissance, Zora Neale Hurston, served as an instructor for the school during this time.

The advent of civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s brought about a whirlwind of challenges and change to St. Augustine. When local African Americans decided to protest and resist segregation in the city, students from Florida Memorial joined the effort, participating in sit-ins, wade-ins, and swim-ins, orchestrated by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The events in St. Augustine significantly influenced federal legislation resulting in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson.

Activism by FMC students, however, threatened to upset the delicate relationship between the City of St. Augustine and Florida Memorial, as well as provoking the resentment and animosity of whites in the area. Given this vulnerable financial and social situation, Dr. Royal W. Puryear oversaw the relocation of the school when, in 1965, the trustees purchased a 48-acre former air strip near Opa-locka in Dade County.

On November 11, 1968, the new campus opened as Florida Memorial College. In December 2004, the institution's charter was amended, and the name Florida Memorial University was adopted.

FMU History - Florida Memorial University (fmu.edu)



Exhibit C-8

Date 2-05-2024



Students at FMU underneath the Arch

Exhibit C-9
Date 2-05-2024

▶ Getting Here! ◀

FLY OR DRIVE

Though St. Augustine | Ponte Vedra on Florida's Historic Coast is a world away from your average, you needn't travel far to envelop yourself in its history and luxury. The area is less than two hours away from major Florida Cities including Jacksonville, Daytona Beach, Gainesville and Orlando. Savannah, Georgia and Florida's capital, Tallahassee, are less than four hours from our shores.

AIRPORTS

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL AIRPORT (UST)

4900 US Hwy. 1, North, St. Augustine, FL 32095
904.823.2232 - www.flynf.com

JACKSONVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JAX)

2400 Yankee Clipper Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32218
904.741.4902 - www.flyjax.com
(45-60 Minutes North)

DAYTONA BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DAB)

700 Catalina Dr., Daytona Beach, FL 32114
386.248.8030 - www.flydaytonafirst.co
(45-60 Minutes South)

ORLANDO SANFORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SFB)

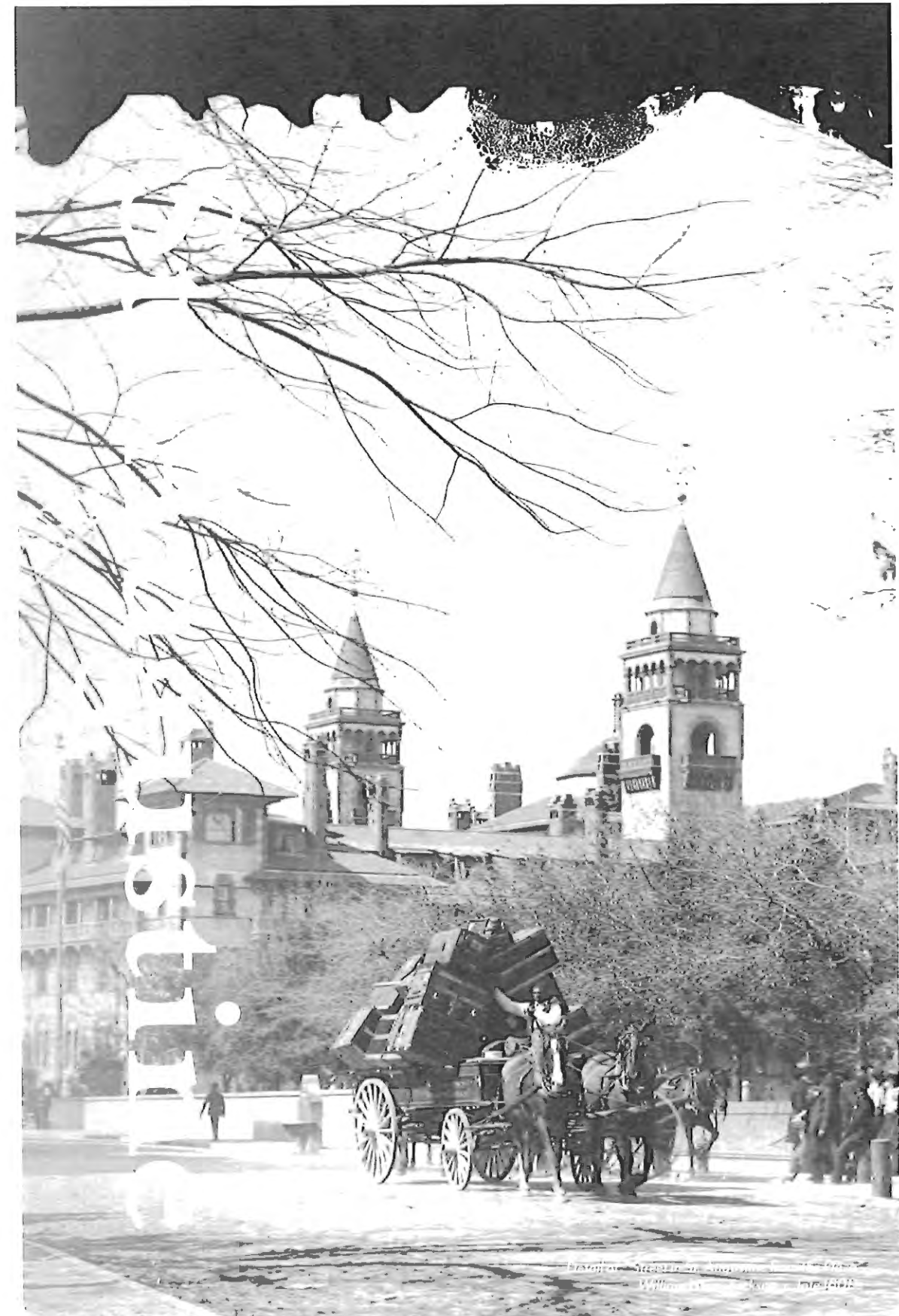
2715 Navigator Ave., Sanford, FL 32773
407.585.4000 - www.flyjax.com
(90 Minutes Southwest)

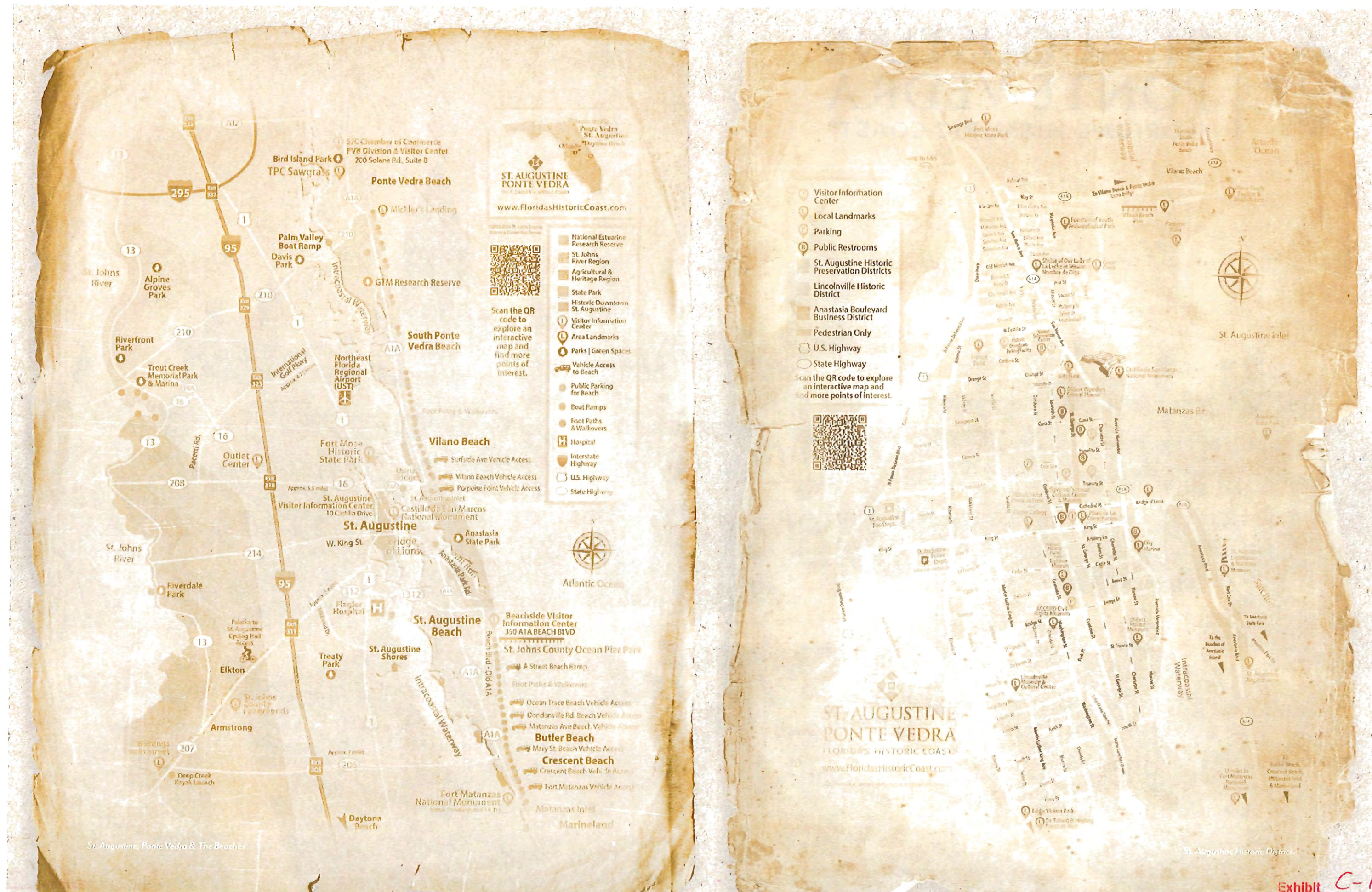
ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MCO)

One Jeff Fuqua Blvd., Orlando, FL 32827
407.825.2001 - www.orlandoairports.net
(2 Hours Southwest)

MOBILITY WITHIN ST. AUGUSTINE

- The all new STAR Circulator (free public bus)
- Old Town Trolley Tours
- The Sunshine Bus
- The SUN Trail – St. Johns River to Sea Loop allowing access for walking and biking
- Some sites are available via kayak and boat; Connecting all types of visitors







ST. AUGUSTINE PONTE VEDRA

FLORIDA'S HISTORIC COAST®

*Front view and entrance, (historic Hotel Ponce de Leon Hotel,
St. Augustine), William Henry Jackson, c. late 1800s*



Exhibit C-12

Date 2-05-2024

A COP'S PET PEEVE

BY OFFICER BOB MORGAN

**IF YOUR CHILD GOES TO PRISON FOR CRIMES HE MUST PAY,
I WANT YOU TO STOP AND REMEMBER THIS DAY
WHEN YOU POINTED AT ME AND SAID WITHOUT FAIL,
"CHILD YOU BE GOOD OR HE'LL PUT YOU IN JAIL !"**

**FOR YOU'RE TEACHING YOUR KIDS THAT I'M SOMETHING TO FEAR
INSTEAD OF A FRIEND WHO'S CARING AND NEAR,
AND AS HE GROWS UP WITH YOUR WORDS IN HIS HEAD
HE'LL BE SEEKING APPROVAL FROM CON MEN INSTEAD.**

**FOR IT'S LITTLE BY LITTLE HE'S LEARNING EACH DAY
FROM THE THINGS THAT YOU DO, NOT THE THINGS THAT YOU SAY.
IT'S YOUR JOB, NOT MINE, AND IF YOU SHOULD FAIL,
THEN HE REALLY WON'T CARE IF I PUT HIM IN JAIL.**

**IF HE CAN'T COME TO ME WHEN HE'S TROUBLED OR SCARED,
THEN IT'S YOU AS HIS PARENT WHO MUST BE PREPARED
TO FACE UP TO THE FACT YOU'VE INFLUENCED HIS MIND
THAT TO HIS AFFLICTIONS ALL JUSTICE IS BLIND.**

**I SWORE AN OATH TO PROTECT HIM FROM STRIFE
AND, IF NEED BE TO SAVE HIM, I'D LAY DOWN MY LIFE.**

Exhibit D-1
Date 2-05-2024

THERE ARE SOME REALLY BAD PEOPLE, 'TIS TRUE
BUT YOU'LL FIND VERY FEW OF THEM DRESSED UP IN BLUE.

WHEN I WAS HIS AGE, MY MOTHER ASSURED
BY THE NEAREST POLICEMAN, YOU'RE SAFE AND SECURED
I'M NOT THE "BAD GUY" I'LL DO HIM NO HARM
SO TELL HIM THE TRUTH AND STOP JERKING HIS ARM.

AND REMEMBER THIS DAY, IF HE SHOULD TURN OUT BAD,
THAT YOU TAUGHT HIM TO HATE THE BEST FRIEND THAT HE HAD.



Undine George <undine@anastasiaw.net>

Proposed Rezoning Request - West 16th St/Mizell Road

1 message

Ed Kierce <efkfj14@gmail.com>
To: comugeorge@cityofsab.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2024 at 4:53 PM

CAUTION: This message originated from outside of your organization. Clicking on any link or opening any attachment may be harmful to your computer or the City. If you do not recognize the sender or expect the email, please verify the email address and any attachments before opening. If you have any questions or concerns about the content, please contact IT staff at IT@cityofsab.org.

Greetings Undine:

I apologize for interrupting your well deserved time off in Costa Rica. We love the country as mentioned my sister-in-law lives in Dominical .

We wanted to make you aware of the rezoning request from OR to PUD to the property adjacent to the water filtration proposed Storage Center Boat & RV PUD to be built at the southeast corner of West 16th Street and Mizell Road. To date, the land is zoned as Open Rural and altering the land to Planned Unit Development would erode the quality of life for our community. As I mentioned our concern is the discharge of pollutants into the Intercoastal Waterway, the reservoir of the St Augustine Beach Mizell Road water pump station and the Marsh Creek retention ponds.

Secondly we do not feel the proposed project is compatible with the surrounding residential communities. The environmental impact to wildlife as well as noise and light pollution to the surrounding area would be disruptive to the ARK, located adjacent to the water pump station. Lastly, would the county commissioners consider acquiring the property and adopt the land as green space as was done with the Fish Island preservation?

We hope you will consider our request to discuss our concerns and possibly represent us if litigation is necessary. For your convenience we attached a copy of the memo we received from MDG Inc advising us of a public hearing to be held on February 20th at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, a color map of the proposed land plot with the surrounding communities of Ocean Cay, Commodores and Marsh Creek. The letter we sent to our community is also attached.


We will certainly attend this meeting and hope you might be able to attend the meeting as well.

Sincerely,

Kathy & Ed Kierce
356 Fiddlers Point Dr
St Augustine, FL 32080-5100
914-433-9818

3 attachments

 MC Zoning letter.docx
20K

 Color Map - Proposed Development.pdf
194K

 Matthews Zoning Meeting.pdf
1579K

Exhibit E-1
Date 2-05-2024

Dear Neighbors,

1/23/2024

We would like to ask that you consider attending the meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6PM at the Anastasia Island Branch Library. This meeting will address the Zoning Permit sought for construction of a Boat and RV Storage (and/or garage condominiums/general/professional office uses) to be built behind the Water Reservoir on Mizell. This 10-acre development would consist of a 24,000 square foot structure and paved road as well as open storage for boats and RVs like the set-up at the current storage facility located on Mizell. This proposed project would be located on the property opposite the Parks and Recreation facility on 16th street and will directly impact the property owners on Fiddlers Point Drive, Spring Lake Court, and Vista Ria Court, but the possible noise, lighting, ecological and visual impact could affect the entire Marsh Creek community. These concerns would also impact our friends in our neighboring communities of Commodores Club and Ocean Cay.

Currently, we all enjoy a natural green space full of bird life, otters, deer, an occasional coyote and of course reptiles that would lose their natural homes and seek alternative spaces to live. A larger concern for us is the possibility of lighting mounted on tall poles, electronic gates, garage doors opening and closing and people cleaning or securing their recreational vehicles at all hours of the day or night. Coming from a family of Marina owners, we are aware of the damage caused by water run-off from washing recreational vehicles or cleaning restroom facilities on recreational vehicles as they are commonly washed and maintained at these types of storage facilities.

Although traffic is not typically a concern with storage units, since those who use them tend to come and go at all different times of the day and night, there are some traffic related concerns in this specific case due to the surrounding residential communities and commercial activity. There are school buses picking up and dropping off children on 16th Street, Mizell and Pope Road. The Sanitation Department on Mizell dispatches their trucks 5 days a week. Parks and Recreation uses heavy equipment that often is moved to various parts of the county from this facility. A water treatment facility is located on 16th Street directly across from the proposed Boat and RV Storage Unit, and the maneuvering of these large RV's and trucks with their trailers would be an issue. For all the above reasons as well as environmental concerns, this location is not a good fit for a storage facility."

We purchased our home in Marsh Creek, in part, because of the quiet, 'old Florida feel' of the community. Recent development along Route 312 has added traffic and light pollution, and there are large tracts of land For Sale along 312, but our fear is that this development would change the feel of our neighborhoods and create more risk to our friends and residents. We know of several Storage facilities already on the Island, and we can't imagine that there are not alternative 'commercial zoned properties' that might be a better alternative than forcing those of us who own homes in; and immediately adjacent residential developments; to look at boats and RV's instead of lake, trees, and wildlife. We cannot imagine what this might do to our property value, and wonder if the developer would like to have this in his or her back yard? Does a Commercial storage facility 'belong' within the sight and sound of quiet residential neighborhoods?

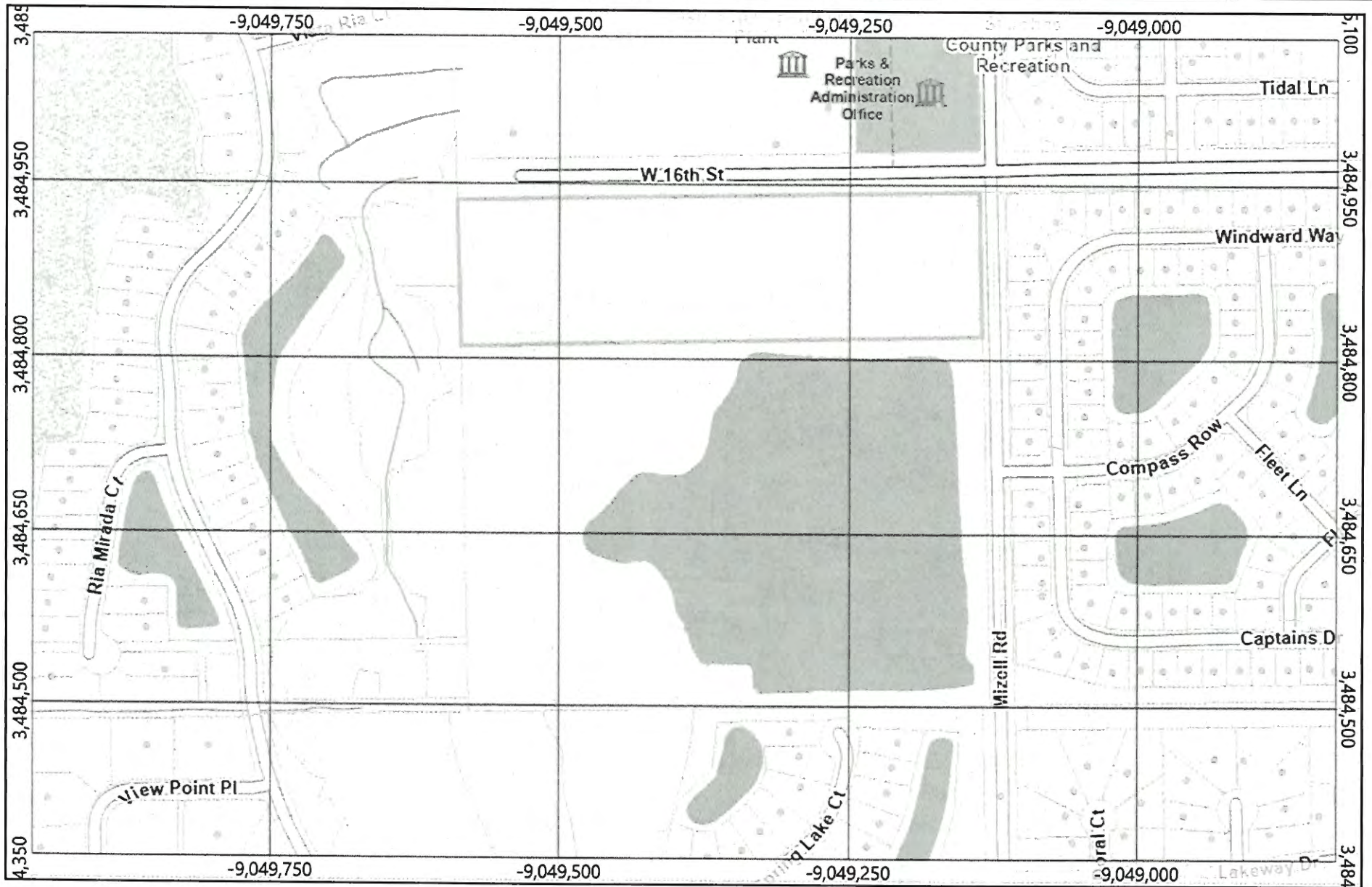
Some members of the MC board have stated "be careful of what you don't know", suggesting that we might end up with something worse planned for this property in the future, but we believe we need to get answers and avoid large commercial developments in our quiet development and be conscious of the possible environmental impact of this specific plan.

Please come show your support on February 20th and find out the exposure for Marsh Creek, Commodores Club, Ocean Cay and the surrounding community. Our email contact is below if you have any comments as well as the link for the official meeting notice. (Right click on the link and open hyperlink.) Please feel free to copy this letter and distribute it to anyone you feel would be interested in our effort to stop this unnecessary development in our backyard!

Kathy and Ed Kierce – 828 226-5414
356 Fiddlers Point Drive - Threadgirl22@gmail.com

Exhibit E-2
Date 2-05-2024

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=e97989953e&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1788360864232669233&th=18d188bb1acc8031&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=18d188b7931a267fb471>



Map created with St. Johns County's iMap

DISCLAIMER:
This map is for reference use only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. The St. Johns County GIS Division disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.

Date Created: 1/31/2024

Exhibit E-3

Date 2-05-2024



January 22, 2024

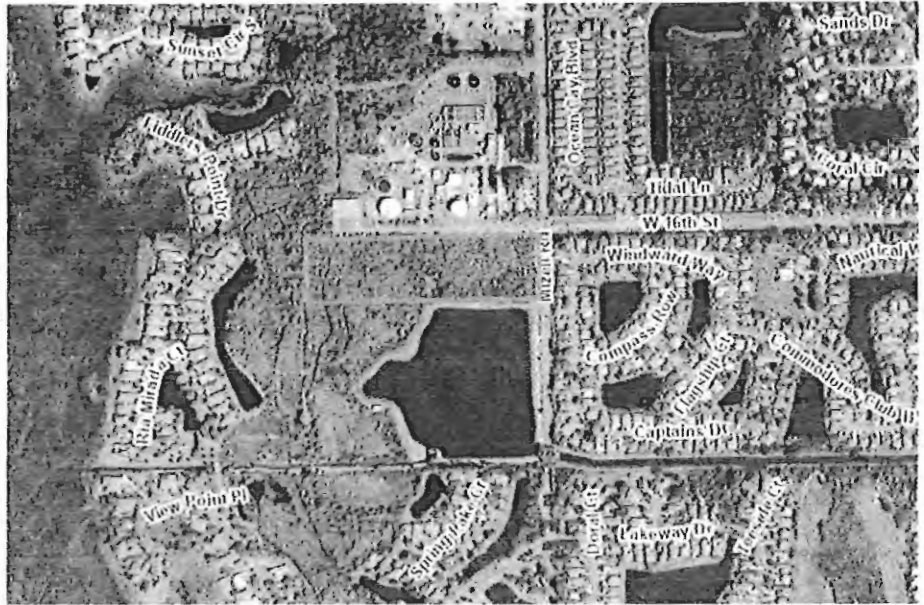
Re: Community Meeting for Proposed Anastasia Storage Center Boat & RV PUD

Dear Neighboring Property Owner:

This letter is to advise you of an upcoming community meeting to discuss the development of approximately 10.42 acres of land located at the southeast corner of West 16th Street and Mizell Road.

This community meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6 PM at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, located at 124 Seagrove Main Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080.

The property owner has filed application *PUD 2023-11*, a rezoning request from Open Rural (OR) to Planned Unit Development (PUD), for a neighborhood commercial development with a maximum of 24,000 square feet of outdoor RV and boat storage, indoor vehicle and boat storage (private garage condominiums) and/or general/professional office uses.



The proposed layout is included for your convenience.

We will be available to discuss the proposed development in more detail and answer any questions you may have at the community meeting. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

NOTICE TO PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND TO ALL HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodations to participate in the proceeding should contact Autumn Martinage, Senior Planner with Matthews | DCCM at (904) 374-4667. For hearing impaired individuals: Florida Relay Service: 1-800-955-8770, no later than five (5) days prior to the date of the public community meeting.

Kind Regards,
Matthews | DCCM

Autumn Martinage
Senior Planner
planning@mdginc.com

Exhibit E-4
Date 2-05-2024