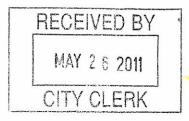
PARKER CIRCLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

590 Parker Circle Pensacola, Florida 32504 November 8, 2010

Ashton Hayward, III, Mayor Elect, City of Pensacola Sam Hall, Pensacola City Council, District 2, At Large Elect Sherri Myers, Pensacola City Council, District 2, Elect Megan B. Pratt, Pensacola City Council, At Large Al Garza, Public Works Director, City of Pensacola Grover C. Robinson, IV, Escambia County Commissioner, District 4 Larry Newsome, Escambia County Engineer



Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. <u>Unkept Promises</u> For many years, the residents who live along Burgess Road east of Davis Highway as well as in the surrounding neighborhoods have contacted both City of Pensacola and Escambia County officials about the need for improvement of Burgess Road from Davis Highway east to Lanier Drive.

At one time a formal petition was submitted that was signed by all but one property owner along this length of Burgess Road. The petition was ignored. A copy of this petition may still be in the files of the Department of Public Works. In the past, many City and County officials have verbally acknowledged the need for improvements and have promised to work for those improvements, but they have done nothing. A recent list of paving projects for the City of Pensacola linked to the *Pensacola News Journal* did not even include the re-paving of Burgess Road much less its overall improvement.

2. The Parker Circle Neighborhood Association The Parker Circle Neighborhood Association was formed under the guidance of the Community Development Department of the City of Pensacola to work for the improvement of Pensacola neighborhoods. Part of the section of Burgess Road east of Davis Highway lies within the boundaries of The Parker Circle Neighborhood Association. More importantly, everyone in the Parker Circle Neighborhood Association area must use Burgess Road multiple times daily because Burgess Road is the only access to every home in our neighborhood.

This year the Association agreed to once again make a united and concerted effort to implore the proper officials, whether City or County or both, to pledge action on the needed improvements. Now that the November 2010 election is completed, we are appealing to you to whom this letter is addressed since you are familiar with Burgess Road and have pledged the improvement of our City and County.

When Davis Highway was improved, one block of Burgess Road between Davis Highway and Sewell Street was also improved under that project. The roadway was widened, and curbs,

gutters, and sidewalks were installed. These improvements are a model for the improvement of the rest of Burgess Road. The Davis Highway to Sewell Street improvements should be extended to Lanier Drive.

3. <u>Burgess Road is Dangerous</u> Burgess Road is a very busy corridor. Many drivers use it to bypass the congestion and traffic signals at Davis Highway and Creighton Road. The City Police must regularly use radar along Burgess Road to control the speeding traffic, and we notice that in the past few days new 30 miles per hour speed limit signs have been posted. Burgess Road is dangerous not only for automobile traffic, but also it is particularly dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists. The paved roadway is very narrow and is too narrow to safely ride a bicycle or to safely walk along.

Burgess Road east of Sewell Street has no sidewalks. Since there are no sidewalks, children on their way to and from Holm Elementary School, Workman Middle School, and Washington High School stay off Burgess Road and walk though the neighborhood streets. However, to do this the students must trespass across private property through dense, secluded, and undeveloped wooded areas which may be more dangerous for their personal safety than Burgess Road itself because of the possibility of predators. Those same wooded areas were the site of two assaults and armed robberies in recent months.

Without sidewalks, Burgess Road is so dangerous that parents and guardians regularly meet both the public school, private school, and special needs school buses to ensure the children's safety. Not only is Burgess Road dangerous for children, but also, without sidewalks, senior citizens, handicapped persons, and all other pedestrians cannot negotiate the ditches, culverts, driveways, and other hazards along the present roadway.

- 4. The Sanders Street Intersection Sanders Street carries a considerable amount of traffic as a connection between Creighton Road and Langley Avenue. The intersection of Burgess Road and Sanders Street is particularly difficult to negotiate and has been the scene of frequent collisions, injuries, and at least one fatality. The drainage is poor, the roadway is crumbling and often patched, and the stop signs are often ignored. Neighborhood residents have observed two serious accidents with overturned vehicles at the intersection in the last few weeks.
- 5. The Challenge The Parker Circle Neighborhood Association challenges every person who receives this letter to park his or her automobile at the What-a-Burger or the SunTrust Bank on the corner of Davis Highway and join me or other members of the Association in walking the length of Burgess Road from Davis Highway to Lanier Drive at any time of day or night. When you do this, you will experience for yourself the difficulty of movement, access, and the physical danger from both the road traffic and the hazardous terrain.
- 6. <u>Jurisdiction Problems</u> The members of the Association believe that one reason for the lack of action on the improvement of Burgess Road has been the long-standing jurisdictional "buckpassing" between the City of Pensacola and Escambia County. The portion of Burgess Road

from Davis Highway to Sanders Street is in the City, and the portion of Burgess Road from Sanders Street to Lanier Drive is in the County.

Right now would be a good time for governmental officials to work together and to act to overcome the years of neglecting to improve Burgess Road. A Burgess Road Improvement Project would be an ideal opportunity for both the City and the County to cooperate and show that they can work together both to improve our community and protect the citizens.

The Association is now collecting signatures of citizens who live along Burgess Road and in the surrounding neighborhoods which will be presented to you when our survey is complete. These citizens support the improvement of Burgess Road including widening the roadway and the laying of sidewalks along with whatever drainage conditions such improvements will require.

Sincerely yours,

The Parker Circle Neighborhood Association

By: John W. Phillips, President

Telephone: 479-3886 E-mail: jwp2@cox.net

Parker Circle Neighborhood Association Officers 2010-2011

President	John W. Phillips	590 Parker Circle	479-3886
Secretary	Elaine Bridges	613 Parker Circle	476-2541
Treasurer	David Mullins	664 Parker Circle	474-0861
Board Member At-Large1	Mike Adler	6500 Chapel Street	477-3800
Board Member At-Large2	Thomas B. Long	1018 Burgess Road	477-3932
Board Member At-Large3	George Sanders	623 Parker Circle	476-3348

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