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LEON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

February 4, 2009

Dear Commission Chairman Desloge:

The purpose of this letter is to recognize the hard work and dedication of the members of the Lake Jackson Sports Council (LJSC) over the years and to recommend that the LJSC be dissolved at the end of the 2009 soccer season, approximately February 28, 2009.

According to the Leon County Board of County Commissioner's website, the LJSC was created in September 2002 for the purpose of:

- Providing year-round youth sports and recreation programming;
- Recruiting, training, certifying, and managing all adult volunteers, coaches and officials;
- Collecting fees, donations, and other revenues, for the exclusive purpose of expanding sports and recreation programs and facilitating park improvements;
- Promoting, publicizing, and advertising information pertaining to youth sports programming;
- Assisting the County in the protection and security of park facilities under the Council's jurisdiction; and
- Promoting the spirit of community involvement by holding at least one town meeting annually for the purpose of soliciting programming ideas from the community.

Since the inception of the LJSC there have been many changes in the method of delivering sports and recreational services to the Lake Jackson Community which have reduced the administrative and oversight responsibilities of the LJSC. The Leon County Parks and Recreation Department has transitioned from local, independent groups providing youth sports to identifying and engaging nationally recognized youth sports organizations to deliver these services to the area such as Little League, Pop Warner and now, Top of Florida Soccer Program. As these new organizations began administering the baseball, softball, flag and tackle football programs at Canopy Oaks, the LJSC was left with administering the soccer program. The LJSC ran a very successful soccer program at Canopy Oaks with over 420 happy participants at the height of our program in 2007. The demand for soccer programs continued to increase throughout the county and, while the LJSC's soccer program was very successful, this was not the case in other county parks. The decision was made to bring in Top of Florida (TOF) to administer the county-wide soccer program for the 2008 season. While

*Lake Jackson Sports Council*  
c/o Bonnie Deering, Treasurer  
4802 Deerrunn Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

the first year under TOF was fraught with problems and a serious decline in participation at Canopy Oaks, the second year has run more smoothly with an increase in participation and a more involved and accessible administration. The change in the delivery of sports services by organizations with their own boards and administration eliminates the need for the LJSC.

Before we take our final bow, however, I would like to highlight those members who were involved and who donated countless hours of their time, dedication, skills, talents and their heart to the Lake Jackson community. These members include Rosemary Woods, Charles McDonald, David Sands, Jim Gillard, Melissa Kurlander-Smith, Connie Lyda and Bonnie Deering. The Lake Jackson community and the county parks in the area -- Canopy Oaks, Tower Road and Stoneler Road -- have benefited from these individuals in not only providing youth sports but most recently the LJSC was able to donate funds for the construction of a pavilion with picnic tables behind the concession stand and shelters over the bleachers facing the baseball and softball fields to protect spectators from stray balls, the sun and inclement weather. The funds to pay for these structures were accumulated over the years from registration fees and concession sales and the prudent use of these funds.

Our final responsibility is to host an end-of-the-season County-wide soccer tournament the weekend of February 21, 2009. After the tournament, we will finalize all matters related to the LJSC and at that time, we, the remaining active members of the Lake Jackson Sports Council, respectfully request that the Lake Jackson Sports Council be dissolved with any remaining funds remitted to Leon County Parks and Recreation.

It has been our pleasure to serve on this Board of Leon County Commissioners' committee and to give back to the community in which we live. Please feel free to contact Bonnie Deering at (850) 556-2654 or Connie Lyda at (850) 510-2182 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Connie Lyda



Bonnie Deering

cc: Commissioner John Dailey, District 3  
Commissioner Bill Proctor, District 1  
Commissioner Jane G. Sauls, District 2  
Commissioner Cliff Thael, At-Large  
Commissioner Akinyemi Akin, At-Large  
Parwez Alam, County Administrator  
Alan Rosenzweig, Assistant County Administrator  
Tony Park, Director of Public Works  
Pat Plocek, Director of Parks & Recreation