

Membership

The commissioners are considering selling 50% of the Paul Thorpe Park to developers.

The Executive Board has taken a position against selling park land and sent it to the commissioners (attached).

*We are looking for support from our membership against this sale
We are asking our associations to send the commissioners a letter*

*The developers will be presenting their plan to commissioners
sometime in January.*

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Lou Costa
CCNA president

[Below is the letter that CCNA has already sent to the commissioners.](#)

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY TO CITY EMAIL ADDRESSES

CCNA

COALITION OF CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

677 N Washington Blvd Ste 52 · Sarasota, FL 34236

December 4, 2021

City Commissioners

City of Sarasota

CC: City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, Parks & Recreation Director, CCNA Presidents, Delegates & Alternates, William Merrill, Esq.

RE: Paul Thorpe Park

Dear Commissioners:

Regarding this week's City Commission agenda item to consider using a significant portion of

Paul Thorpe Park in the settlement of a legal lawsuit. We strongly discourage the use of this

wonderful downtown asset in this manner.

Parks belong to the city residents and taxpayers. They should not be used as bargaining chips

with developers whether they are local or foreign companies. The proposed suggestion removes

almost 50% of the park from public use AND eliminates 80% of the greenspace.

We are further concerned to hear that an established local law firm is actually proposing this as a

settlement to prevent the appeal of a legal decision they have lost. This just doesn't seem right.

We do not believe the proposed legal settlement provides benefit to city residents or taxpayers. It

merely transforms a public park to a commercial use. There is limited public space in the

downtown core and this space should not be negotiated away.

Given the work and progress the commissioners, the city and the neighborhoods of CCNA have

made to preserve and enhance green space through activities such as the tree program and the

pending Rosemary District pocket park, we urge you to seek a solution that protects Paul Thorpe

Park (and all parks) from indiscriminate use as anything other than public green space.

We do not believe the proposed legal settlement provides benefit to city residents or taxpayers. It

merely transforms a public park to an unacceptable, non-public commercial use.

Sincerely,

/Signed,

CCNA Executive Committee

Lou Costa, Chairperson Sue Stewart, Vice-Chair Eileen Normile, Vice-Chair

Tony Smith, Secretary Charlie Nagelschmidt, Treasurer Carl Shoffstall, Past-Chair

Dan DeLeo, District Delegate Norm Dumaine, Delegate Richard Harris, District

Delegate