



**The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County
P.O. Box 13693 St. Petersburg, Florida 33733**

November 13, 2008

City Council
PO Box 2842
St. Petersburg, Florida 33731

Dear City Council Members:

The CONA Executive Board members at their Nov 12th meeting voted unanimously to:

- *oppose the annexation of a portion of Tierra Verde Island to the City of St. Petersburg.*

This is the City's third attempt to do this and we ask you to stop this process. Please acknowledge that over 98% of Tierra Verde homeowners who answered the question "do you want annexation" said *no !!!*

- This annexation is contrary to City's stated intention to work with Pinellas County and other municipalities as they design a proper protocol for the annexation process. The City seems to be snubbing the process all of you and Tierra Verde agreed to follow.
- City did not disclose the increased costs to provide services (police, fire, emergency and others) and utilities to this area. St. Petersburg residents are already concerned about cutbacks to services in this challenging economy. Adding new services elsewhere is a grave concern to us.
- City did not disclose if the estimated new taxes will even cover the increased costs to provide those services. We understand trying to find new revenue sources, but this is not the right way.
- City has not stated the (detrimental) impact of any proposed high-rise development on the surrounding Tierra Verde Island which is one and two-story residential. St. Petersburg has an overabundance of vacant and planned condos far in excess of buyers willing to purchase. The idea of annexing land to allow a builder additional height to add yet another waterfront condo is not the best business decision at this time.
- Tierra Verde Island is not a contiguous parcel of land to the City of St. Petersburg, but an island separated by almost a mile of water.
- Why not request total annexation of Tierra Verde and let the island residents vote on this? Is it because those residents would vote it down as they have already indicated?

Each of you has a responsibility to your neighborhoods and voters. Please listen to the Tierra Verde residents and to their arguments against this third attempt to annex a small sliver of their island.

We ask you to do the right thing and vote NO. Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Barbara Heck
CONA President

Cc: CONA Executive Board