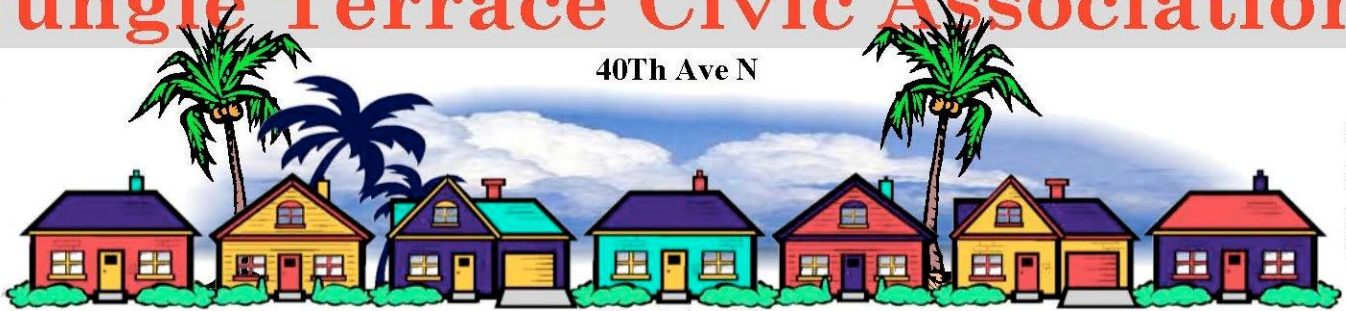


Jungle Terrace Civic Association

40Th Ave N

Boca Ciega Bay

66th St. N.



22nd Ave N

68 Years Advocating for Jungle Terrace Neighborhood!

1st Quarter 2022

www.Jungle-Terrace.org

January Meeting

Monday, January 17, 2022

Walter Fuller Center-7891 26th Av N ~ Meeting 7:00 p.m.

JT Elections, Annual Reports

“Since I was 9 ~ 70 Years in Jungle Terrace” ~ John Sweeny

2022 Nominations for JTCA Officers & Board

President ~ Dr. Ed Carlson

Vice President ~ John Sweeny

Secretary ~ Mark Siler

Treasurer ~ Jill Silverstein

Board Member ~ Lauren Sanders

Board Member ~ John Prokop

Board Member Dale Eckholm

Board Member ~ Matt Gross

Honorary Board Member ~ Dr. Roland Martens

Annual Membership Dues

To renew your membership in Jungle Terrace Civic Association, please fill out below form.

Bring it to the next meeting, or send your dues to address below, or go online to website.

PayPal: https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=vs-PNiY0NJkiOkWTVv-8SHH8ZjB8YWk40Jhjh5RSARVS_q5VAE1t4GRx2jvt6kYvmXsk3TKG-E62NWGf

This is your neighborhood association. We work for you and your neighborhood.

Please include \$40.00 per member, one member/vote per household.

Annual membership dues are due in January. Donations in addition are hugely appreciated!

We utilize the funds to publish and email your newsletter, hold regular membership meetings and continue improvements to the health, safety and beauty of Jungle Terrace neighborhood.

JTCA is a 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Non-profit organization.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Dues: ___\$40.00___ Donation Amount: _____ Total: _____

Please make checks payable to: Jungle Terrace Civic Association or JTCA.

Mail to: JTCA, Jill Silverstein 8045 28th Ave. No., St. Pete, FL 33710 Phone 727 488 7696

(Note: Honorary/Scholarship Dues \$20)



Congratulations!

Jungle Terrace is Awarded 2021

“Healthier Together Certification” Bronze recognition!

JCTA Awards

Newsletter of the Year Award 2004

City Beautification Award 2010

Mayor’s Neighborhood Award 2012

ENTWINED Sculpture 2013

Pinellas TRAIL “Enhancement Award” 2014

Mayor’s JTCA PROCLAMATION 2015

Keep Pinellas Beautiful - Runner Up -

Volunteer Group of the Year 2017

Council of Neighborhood Associations

CareFest Award - Every Year

“Senior Hall of Fame” Award and

“Key to the City”: Dr. Ed 2017

Mayor’s “Best Project” Award 2018

Mayor’s “Best Partnership” Award 2018

Mayor’s “President of the Year” RU 2018

Mayor’s “Website + Newsletter” Award 2018

Honorable Mention



NEW Porter Project ~ 22nd Ave and 72nd St N

Jungle Terrace Position Paper

Jungle Terrace "Position Paper" on NEW Porter Development following the presentation by Les Porter on Nov. 16 to Jungle Terrace Civic Association, to Azalea Neighborhood Association, and to Crossroads Neighborhood Assn.

Jungle Terrace supported the 1st version of Porter Development including Hotel, Apartments, Sports Complex, Crystal Lagoon, Container Shoppes.

We supported the 2nd version during Covid . . . minus the Hotel.

We now unanimously support the 3rd "streamlined version" . . .

minus the Sports Complex and the Container Shoppes.

These are our reasons.



Les Porter, who developed the Publix/Shoppes Royale on 66th St, working closely with neighborhoods, has purchased the 29 acres at 22nd Ave and 72nd St N.

The first Porter plan was approved by City Staff, unanimously by CPPC, unanimously by City Council, unanimously by County Planners, then ran into headwind of a S/P Council member at Forward Pinellas... got disgusted and walked away, rather than continue.

\$16 Million LOSS each year to neighborhoods... Tyrone Mall & small businesses.

The New Porter Plan is scaled down, eliminating 150,000sf Sports Complex, and eliminating Container Retail Shoppes.

Reducing traffic by 50%.

Central boulevard from 22nd Av down the center of project to Crystal Lagoon.
Keeps traffic out of neighborhood.

Similar number of A+ market rate apartments and some Work Force units.
(WF is higher level than “Affordable” and much higher level than “Section 8.”)
Workforce is 80-120% of Family Median Income \$69,200, or \$55,360 - \$83,040.

Details

Apartment building designs have good “architectural interest” (not boxes).

Limited to 4 stories in height. Note: Stones Throw has some 5 story buildings.

Eliminated Sports Complex.

Eliminated Container shops.

Now Traffic is 50% less.

Central boulevard to contain traffic.

Sharing Parking for Azalea Park sports events. Big Help!

Crystal Lagoon is on the south end, more parking further south.

"Neighborhood Beach"

Apartments are clustered by 22nd Ave No., so traffic in/out is on 22nd Ave.

"Interior road" to Crystal Lagoon to help keep traffic off neighborhood streets.

SAFETY ~ Lighting up 8 blocks of Pinellas Trail.

Angle fence at 22nd Ave and Pinellas Trail for greater visibility by vehicles.

On-site initial stormwater retention in vaults.

Environmental: Cleared and Supervised by Depts. of Environmental Protection
Federal, State, County, and City.

Grand Oak Trees are being preserved, and more Live Oaks planted.

One mature Oak stores 10,000 pounds of Carbon +
creates 26,000 pounds of Oxygen every 100 years.

100+ jobs

\$5 Million each year generated by Crystal Lagoon.

\$ Millions each year in Property Tax to City, and to County.

\$ Millions to neighborhood businesses and mall from the residents and visitors.

This Porter Project is a huge boon and asset to our neighborhoods every year!

Thank You, Les and Team for being so determined to bring a healthy project to
benefit our neighborhood and so many people.

JT Secretary Jill writes:

“We really need this because it is Christmas and the mall is very weird –
even Starbucks closed its doors at Tyrone Mall, and all comfy chairs are
gone and not happy or pretty place anymore - sad feeling...”

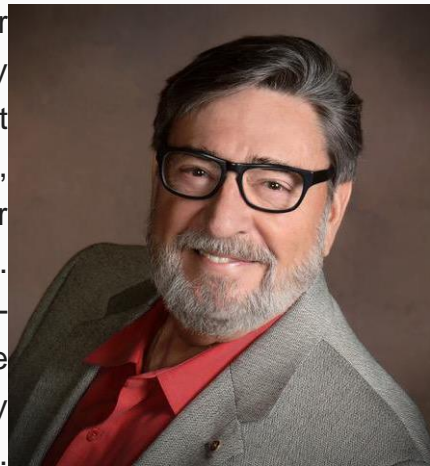


Proudly supporting St. Petersburg, Florida's waterfront parks!

A Great Man!!

Founder's Corner

Since childhood I have been able to call our downtown waterfront parks my playground. My father's photography studio was across the street from South Straub Park and on afternoons, weekends and summers, the parks and the pier were where I played, fished and passed my time. I loved them then as I love them now! My great-great grandfather, Clarence W. Graham, was one of the Founders of our beloved Sunshine City. My roots in St. Petersburg run deep.



Our parks have been recognized as one of the foremost contiguous waterfront parks in North America! Not everyone is aware that our waterfront parks were a GIFT to the citizens of St. Petersburg from a select few of our city's Founders, including William Straub, the crusading Editor of the St. Petersburg Times.

That is why, in 2012, I felt called to start the [Waterfront Parks Foundation](#) (WPF). With a group of like-minded men and women, we came together with a Mission "To support preservation and enhancement of the historic downtown waterfront parks for the enjoyment of residents and visitors of St. Petersburg." We

recognized the waterfront parks as the Jewels on Tampa Bay. We wanted to make sure that the parks continued to be available to all the citizens and visitors of our community; we wanted to protect the parks from developers' shovels; and we wanted to promote the parks in the best possible ways.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as President of the Waterfront Parks Foundation since its inception. I have worked with many excellent civic volunteers who share my passion for our parks. I thank them all for their contributions and support for the parks. Like me, they see their value, their beauty, and the recreational opportunities they provide for you and me. Together we have worked to enhance the parks and advocate for their protection and preservation. I especially would like to thank Charles Osterholt and Tami Simms, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, for their outstanding contributions to the WPF since its founding. I am also grateful for the generosity of our donors who have made park enhancements possible.

While remaining the Founder and a WPF Board member, I now welcome Logan DeVicente as the new President of the Waterfront Parks Foundation. Logan is a St. Petersburg native, the great-great grandson of William Straub; he is a respected businessman, active civic leader, and a devoted family man. He takes the reins this month and will continue to oversee the WFP ideals and endeavors. Logan will be an outstanding leader for our Foundation!

I hope you will continue to support our waterfront parks, and tell your family and friends about the WPF, the history of our parks, and encourage them to use and support our parks year-round. In summation, the St. Petersburg downtown waterfront parks are for you and me, for our loved ones, and for the many new residents and visitors to our beautiful city. Please join us as we continue to 'PRESERVE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE' the waterfront parks!

See you in the parks! Philip H. Graham, Jr., Founder





Proud Dad Mark Siler
with daughter Ariel!
Graduating Physician's Assistant (PA)
from University of Tampa.
Long successful journey!

**Jungle Terrace CONGRATULATES
Ariel and Mark!~!**

New Restaurant ~ Portillo's

Portillo's, an iconic restaurant chain from the Chicago area is redeveloping the Romano's Macaroni Grill site, 2302 Tyrone Blvd, with 176 seats. Portillo's is known for its Chicago-style hot dogs and Italian beef.

Portillo's traces its origins to 1936 when founder Dick Portillo invested \$1,100 into a small hot dog cart in Villa Park, Illinois. The restaurant chain has since expanded to over 60 locations in nine states.

In addition to hot dogs and beef sandwiches, the restaurant also offers burgers, chicken sandwiches, salads, and pastas.

<https://stpeterising.com/home/2021/10/28/portillos-set-to-bring-its-chicago-style-hot-dogs-to-st-petersburg>

Stormwater Call Center

Do you see a problem with a road, sidewalk, street sign, stormwater catch basin, or street sweeping? The City has a special line dedicated to resolving these issues. For the quickest response, call 727-893-7421. Operating hours are Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Alternatively, you can submit to SeeClickFix at seeclickfix.com/st-petersburg



CareFest by Jungle Terrace

- ~ “Volunteers Garden” in Walter Fuller Park. 5 Volunteers 3½ weed, prune, fertilize, removing invasives, 55 bags of Pine Bark Mini-Nuggets.
 - ~ 7 Magnolia Trees, weed, fertilize, 2 bags each of bark chips.
 - ~ Bronze Statue “Girl with Her Dog”, weed and 4 bags bark chips.
 - ~ Bronze Statue “Swim Time Boy,” weed, trim bushes, 3 bags of white sand.
 - ~ Cypress Point weed the Cypress knees.
 - ~ Coontie two gardens at entrance to 30th Ave. N., weed and fertilize.
 - ~ WF Ballfield entrance, Scott and Dr. Ed cut back, weed, fertilize, bark chips.
 - ~ WF Entrance 30th Ave. N. Jasmine Minamus two gardens, weed and fertilize.
 - ~ Stonehenge Park at Tyrone Overpass, 21 pillars, weed + 3 bags each mulch.
 - ~ 16 Oaks in neighborhood and park + 2 Jacaranda trees, weed and fertilize.
- Bark chips around trees in WF Park.
- ~ Entwined Sculptured polished by Sculptor Robbie Robins.
 - ~ Jungle Terrace sign and palms near entrance to Stonehenge Park and Trail.

This was much more than our primary Saturday outing! We worked up to it! The City provided a \$500 mini-grant for the bark chips.



Paul, Debbie, Scott, Linn, Dr. Ed



Volunteers Garden



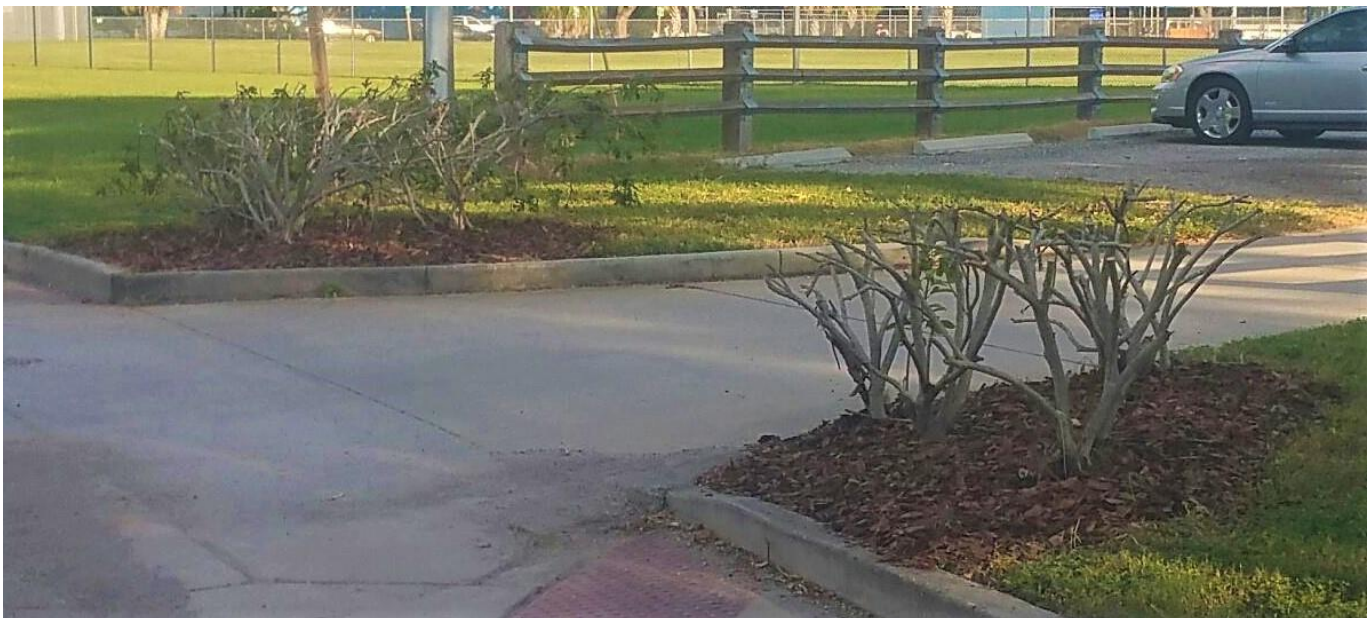
Swim Time Boy



Coontie Fern Garden 1



Coontie Fern Garden 2



WF Ballfields Entrance



“Entwined” polished by sculptor Robbie Robins.



Jungle Terrace Sign: Entrance to Stonehenge Park and Trail



Brandi Gabbard re-elected to City Council.

Florida is ditching palm trees to fight the climate crisis ~ how tree sinks benefit us

By **Allison Chinchar**, CNN Meteorologist October 23, 2021 (emphasis added)
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/23/weather/weather-trees-adapt-climate-change/index.html>

(CNN)When you think of Florida, beaches and palm trees come to mind. But what if those palm trees were slowly replaced with other trees? That could happen over time because of **climate change**, and communities in South Florida are trying to save the world from the climate crisis, one tree at a time.

"Palms do not sequester carbon at the same rate as our native canopy trees, and do not provide shade, cool down streets and sidewalks to help counter the urban heat island effect that canopy trees do," said Penni Redford, the Resilience and Climate Change Manager for West Palm Beach.

With atmospheric carbon dioxide levels today higher than at any point in at least the past **800,000 years**, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Earth needs to remove it or humans have to stop adding it. In fact, the last time carbon dioxide concentration was this high was more than 3 million years ago.

Scientists are working on solutions to capture and safely contain atmospheric carbon. One approach is called "**terrestrial sequestration**" -- which is essentially planting trees.

A tree absorbs carbon during photosynthesis and **stores it for the life of the tree**.

But Florida's beloved palms are the least effective at carbon sequestration. The average palm in southern Florida only absorbs 5 pounds of CO2 per year.

CNN Weather **COMPARATIVE ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS OF COMMON TREES IN FLORIDA** CNN WEATHER

	Live Oak	Mahogany	Florida Thatch Palm
Annual CO2 sequestered (pounds)	487	623	2
Lifetime CO2 sequestered (pounds)	10,994	11,963	75
Ozone pollution removed annually (ounces)	48	44	5

USDA FOREST SERVICE, DAVEY TREE, ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION, ET AL

Compared to other trees -- **oaks**, mahogany, **pin**es, and **cedars** -- sequester more than 10,000 pounds of CO2 over their lifetime. Best to exclude palms in favor of more broadleaf trees or conifers.

Kristine Crous, a senior lecturer at Western Sydney University, explains that palms don't produce wood, so they're poorer at storing carbon.

Thus palms are not actually trees at all. Botanists, ecologists, and forestry specialists have a [variety of definitions](#) of what a tree actually is. (Palms are sometimes defined as big grasses, shrubs.)

The concern is that a standard passenger vehicle emits about 10,000 pounds of CO₂ per year, which means we need a lot of trees to combat the amount of vehicles on the roads.

Even though palms are not great at carbon sequestration, chopping them down isn't the answer. Instead, programs in both West Palm Beach and Miami Beach, Florida, are taking the initiative to plant trees more adept at handling changing climate conditions.

Having many palms will not allow for these cities to handle carbon sequestration as well as they would have with other tree varieties. By 2050, Miami Beach's palms should make up no more than 25% of the public tree population, according to Miami Beach's [Rising Above plan](#).

"**Southern Live oak**, *Quercus Virginiana* -- large canopy trees, can withstand occasional floods and hurricanes and are resistant to salt spray, provide habitat for birds and a variety of moss and bromeliads in south Florida," Redford said

Even without considering logging and deforestation, Mother Nature brings down a lot of trees. Tree loss from hurricanes and flooding will become even bigger concerns in the future.

However, in the case of palms, the best solution is to replace them with trees that are better at mitigating the climate crisis.

The age of the tree matters, too: Younger trees absorb less carbon dioxide than older trees.

"Yes, tree species matter, some grow faster than others and so their response to elevated CO₂ may differ, too," Crous said. "But it is important to distinguish between responses from younger trees compared to older trees."

Age isn't just a number

Young trees and mature trees do not adapt to changes equally. So "just plant more trees" as an effort to combat climate change is not a universal remedy. Climate change is making hurricanes stronger, knocking down mature trees, and even entire forests, which are needed most to ease climate change.

"Planting trees is great, but **valuing old growth forest is equally important**," said Crous.

A [joint research study](#) from the University of Birmingham, Western Sydney University, Australian EucFACE, and BIFoR FACE is being done across the globe to study how trees adapt to the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The research shows that **mature oak trees can increase their rate of photosynthesis by up to a third in response to higher CO₂ levels**. In just the first three years of the 10-year project, the **175-year-old oaks clearly responded to higher CO₂ by increasing their rate of photosynthesis**.

"We aimed specifically to quantify the photosynthetic response (carbon uptake) of these trees to future levels of atmospheric CO₂," Anna Gardner said.

"Planting trees will certainly help reducing CO₂ levels," Crous said.

"But as **trees take a long time to mature** it will be a delayed effect."

Old trees are the most valuable

"The type of tree certainly matters. More so, our climate models are using data from seedlings and young trees to show how **old forests will absorb future increases in CO2** in the air," said David Ellsworth, Professor of Tree Physiology at the University of Western Sydney. That is why it is **so important that we save the landscapes and forests with very dense older and mature trees.**

"Our CO2 in the atmosphere and its impacts on climate would be far worse if we didn't have these old forests, and that these old forests can adjust and increase CO2 uptake into the future," Ellsworth said.

The study notes that the amount of forest carbon-uptake in the future, and subsequent carbon sequestration, "will be crucial determinants of future atmospheric CO2 concentrations. So, quantifying the photosynthetic response under elevated CO2, especially for mature trees, is critical to understanding the carbon uptake of forests under changing atmospheric composition."

Planting new trees in Florida

West Palm Beach gives out 1,000 native trees a year for residents and businesses to plant.

"We have an active tree planting program," Redford explains about the program they are using in West Palm Beach. The goal is to help Floridians not only beautify their surroundings, but also to better prepare them for a future of global warming. To do that, Redford said, you have to be selective. "We do not use our canopy tree fund to plant palms," Redford said.

Miami is joining the initiative to shift planting priority to a variety of trees -- just not palms. Miami Beach's [Rising Above program](#) to combat the climate crisis includes an urban forestry master plan which details the environmental benefits of planting shade trees, including species such as oak, ash, elm and sycamore, in place of palms.

"It may seem simple to select trees, but it requires thought and planning to have the right tree in the right place -- one that can provide maximum benefits with minimal maintenance and does not contribute to other concerns like fertilizer run off and higher costs for water and maintenance," Redford said.

There's also a plan for when **construction leads to the removal of trees.** Redford said that if a developer needs to remove trees and cannot replace them, they can pay into a fund for trees to be planted elsewhere.

"We try first to save the trees or replant on that location," Redford said.
"But if it's not possible, we look to plant trees where they are most needed."

Planting trees to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is a critical component of climate change mitigation, experts say. But it's important to be smart about which trees we plant, and to **put more focus on saving the older trees we already have.**

Mayor Ken Welch's election night speech

You all look wonderful tonight!
This is what our St. Pete looks like...
This is what unity looks like....
This is what progress looks like....

In this campaign, for three years, in Zoom meetings, neighborhood forums, youth summits, in houses of worship and places of business, and yes even while driving Uber and Lyft for 1,000 rides (with a 4.97 rating), we've asked a simple question. What does progress look like?

The answer from the community is clear — across the spectrum of age, race, gender, orientation, faith, or neighborhood — the response from the people of St. Petersburg was consistent with our vision of Inclusive Progress for all and our guiding principles.

Tonight's election victory confirms the desire of the people of St. Petersburg for leadership that moves us forward. That's the definition of progress. Assuring today is better than yesterday and tomorrow is better than today. And that's what the people have clearly stated that they want, in this election!

When we asked the people, "What does progress look like?" — from students last week at Campbell Park Elementary to seniors at Westminster Senior Living and every venue in between — the answers were consistent.

- The people said that progress means affordability for the people who call St. Petersburg home. It means affordable rent and home ownership, affordable water bills, transportation options and taxes.
- The people said that progress means safe and healthy neighborhoods — where every child sees opportunity and hope, and health, education and nutrition disparities are addressed as priorities.
- The people say that progress means smart growth that protects our environment, invests in our infrastructure and preserves St. Pete's character.
- And the people agree with my firmly held belief that facts matter. As our founding father John Adams said, "Facts are stubborn things."

We will approach every issue informed by facts, data, science and, importantly, our history. History is important because we must fully understand where we are coming from as a community, to determine where we want to go, and to perfect our path forward.

And importantly all of our work should be built upon a strong foundation of equity, inclusion, diversity and community benefit.

That is how we will build inclusive progress for St. Petersburg.

I thank the residents of St. Petersburg for your belief we live in a great city — and we can be better. To reach our highest potential, we must be better. We must work every day to make sure that our city is great for every-one. From our youth to our seniors, the entrepreneur in the Grand Central District, the Brayboy's next door at Chief Creoles on the Deuces, the emerging artists in the Warehouse Arts District,

and our businesses in downtown and the Gateway area, and every neighborhood, business and community in our great city — yes, that includes the West Side Commissioner Justice.

I'd like to thank all of the candidates who ran for mayor and City Council. I also thank Robert Blackmon for his phone call a few minutes ago conceding the race. I wish him well. It's time to move forward.

We are truly in this together, and our collective potential is only limited by our ability to connect every part of our community with access to opportunity and equitable investment. We will listen, and our administration will be in-touch with the people whom we serve.

We must enter this work with a clear-eyed view. The work before us will be challenging — we face the same economic, social, and environmental challenges as any other American city. Some issues, like our changing climate and sea level rise, are particularly pressing issues in our city, and affect every-thing from housing affordability and growth management to transportation.

These challenges are not insurmountable - we can and will make real progress through prioritizing, resourcing, partnership and the hard work of long-term strategic decision making. We can't kick the can down the road on the pressing issues — be it climate change, public safety, infrastructure, poverty, or equity. Progress will require honest and sometimes difficult conversations, innovation, and determination. That is the path to progress in these challenging times, and I look forward to our collective work to achieve these goals.

Finally, I want to acknowledge just a few folks.

When you run for office, your whole family runs. My family has always supported me, even when our faith was tested. So, I thank my wife Donna, daughters Keonna and Kenya, sister Katrina, nephew Tre, nieces Keina and Andressa. And to the hundreds of folks in the Welch, Davis, Brown Mckenzie, Boykins family — thank you for always being there.

Special thanks to our queen, our matriarch, my mother Alletha — she is the beauty and the political brains of the family. To this day, her political instincts and advice is providential. I love you, Ma.

My father was my role model — he showed me every day what fatherhood, humility, and public service is all about. Thirty years ago, my father ran for mayor. This is his button. When he ran in 1991, he faced death threats — it makes the petty attacks on me during this campaign pale in comparison. Dad's example, and the example of thousands of other pioneers, taught me what real strength and courage looks like, and the value of perseverance.

As I close, I thank you all for your support.

I would not be standing here today as mayor-elect of St. Petersburg but for the grace of God, and in my personal faith I believe that certain people are placed in our lives as mentors and role models. I have personally learned from outstanding mentors since I was a boy — leaders like Vyrle Davis, Perkins Shelton, Lonnie Donaldson, Adele Vaughn Jamison, Ernst Fillyau and Winnie Foster to name a few.

There are many giants still with us. Pioneers like Leon Jackson of Courageous 12 — who led an historic fight for equality for Black police officers in the city. Gwen Reese, keeper of our history and culture, and Watson Haynes, an iconic leader who continues to lead and inspire. And my mentor and former colleague Commissioner Bob Stewart. There are many others that time doesn't permit me to name but thank you all for your example of leadership.

I thank mayor, Rick Kriseman, for leading our city to new heights. He's a great leader, and he's a great friend. He's participating in a Global Climate Summit in Scotland today, and we wish him Godspeed.

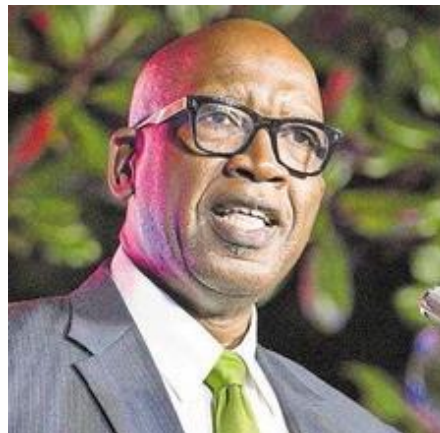
To my endorsers - elected, community, faith and business leaders, supporters, volunteers, prayer warriors, friends and voters, thank you for your support, and your hard work. I will need your continued support and collaboration as we get to work — this is the start, not the end of our journey.

Finally, to my TeamWelch, you are the best. You mapped out a plan to reach the voters, and we stayed focused on our positive message of inclusive progress. We knocked doors, called, texted, did our homework and reached the voters through mail, TV, social media and radio.

I'm proud that my team, endorsers, and supporters, reflect our entire community. Black, white, straight, LGBTQ+, Latinx, from different parties, neighborhoods, faith experiences and ages. I'm proud of our partnership, and our unifying goal of progress, equity and equality for all.

This election made history in St. Petersburg, and it is my distinct honor to be the first African-American mayor of my hometown. Let me be clear in stating that "making history" in and of itself, has never been a campaign priority nor will it be the focus of my administration. A guiding principle of governance (available at Kenwelch.com) is community impact, inclusive progress that improves the lives of our residents, the resiliency of our community and links every person with the opportunity to become their best and authentic self — that is inclusive progress and that will be the focus of my administration.

For me "making history" without making a positive impact is an empty achievement. So, our election victory must be followed by a purposeful agenda of opportunity, accountability and intentional equity for our entire community, and working in partnership with you, and every person and organization who will join our partnership for progress — we will build impactful, inclusive progress for St. Petersburg. Let's get to work. Thank you.





Social Security

SCAM ALERT

The Social Security Administration will never threaten, scare, or pressure you to take an immediate action.

If you receive a call, text, or email that...

- Threatens to suspend your **Social Security number**, even if they have part or all of your Social Security number
- Warns of **arrest of legal action**
- Demands or requests **immediate payment**
- Requires payment by **gift card, prepaid debit card, internet currency, or by mailing cash**
- Pressures you for **personal information**
- Requests **secrecy**
- Threatens to **seize your bank account**
- Promises to increase your Social Security benefit
- Tries to gain your trust by providing **fake "documentation," false "evidence," or the name of a real government official**

...it is a SCAM!

Do not give scammers money or personal information – Ignore Them!

Protect yourself and others from scams

- **Stay calm.** Do not provide anyone with money or personal information when you feel pressured, threatened, or scared.
- **Hang up or ignore it.** If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email, hang up or do not respond. Government employees will not threaten you, demand immediate payment, or try to gain your trust by sending you pictures or documents.
- **Report Social Security-related scams.** If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email that mentions Social Security, ignore it and report it to the [SSA Office of the Inspector General \(OIG\)](#). Do not be embarrassed if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss.
- **Get up-to-date information.** Follow SSA OIG on [Twitter @TheSSAOIG](#) and [Facebook @SSA Office of the Inspector General](#) for the latest information on Social Security-related scams. Visit the [Federal Trade Commission](#) for information on other government scams.
- **Spread the word.** Share your knowledge of Social Security-related scams. Post on social media using the hashtag #SlamtheScam to share your experience and warn others. Visit oig.ssa.gov/scam for more information. Please also share with your friends and family.

[Report a Scam](#)

my Social Security

Plan for the future, manage the present!

With your free and secure *my Social Security* account, you can receive personal estimates of future benefits based on your real earnings, see your latest *Social Security Statement*, and review your earnings history. It even makes it easy to request a replacement Social Security Card, check the status of an application online, and much more, from anywhere!