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Councilman, District 7
Pensacola City Council
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Oct. 29, 2024

Community Change Program
U.S. Department of Environmental Protection
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Letter of Support for The Bluffline Jackson Lakes Extension

Dear Community Change Program Team,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bluffline, Inc.'s grant application to the EPA's Community Change Grant Program for the Bluffline Jackson Lakes Park and Greenway project. As the representative of District 7, I am excited about the transformative potential of this initiative for my district and the broader West Pensacola area.

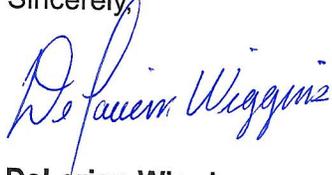
The proposed project aims to convert the long-neglected Jackson Lakes property into a vibrant 70-acre public park connected by a 3.5-mile greenway that will extend through District 7. This greenway will provide a safe, zero-emission route for residents to access critical community assets, including Global Learning Academy, which serves as an essential educational hub within my district. The project's focus on safe routes to school will enhance the safety and well-being of our students, addressing long-standing transportation concerns that have impacted educational outcomes.

The Bluffline Jackson Lakes Park and Greenway will also play a crucial role in revitalizing our neighborhoods. By transforming a blighted area into a community amenity, this initiative will not only create much-needed green space but also stimulate economic development, encourage active transportation, and improve access to parks. It is designed with equity in mind, ensuring that disadvantaged residents benefit directly from the project's environmental and economic impacts.

This project aligns seamlessly with the goals of the Reimagine Jackson Street initiative, which seeks to restore vibrancy along this historically significant corridor. The creation of a greenway that connects neighborhoods to schools, healthcare facilities, and employment centers represents a vital step toward building a safer, healthier, and more connected community. Moreover, the integration of green infrastructure elements such as bioswales, wetland restoration, and extensive tree planting will enhance resilience to climate change while addressing flooding risks that have long plagued this area.

I fully support Bluffline, Inc.'s efforts to secure funding for this project, and I am committed to assisting in its implementation in any way possible. This greenway represents a bold vision for sustainable community development, and I am confident that it will yield lasting benefits for the residents of District 7 and beyond.

Sincerely,



DeLarian Wiggins
Councilman, District 7
Pensacola City Council