

MCNA Statement for the COB July 28 Council Meeting

Good evening Mayor and Council and thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. I am Zane Douglass, President of the Murphey Candler Neighborhood Association. I am also a resident of Brookhaven and reside at 1634 East Nancy Creek Drive.

While the Murphey Candler Neighborhood Association has been in existence for decades, we have recently reorganized with a new Board of Directors and we are currently pursuing a membership campaign. In just the past three months we have tripled our membership and interest in our activities continues to grow. Today, we have 100 household members, which primarily reside on the east side of Murphey Candler Park.

In June of this year, the association conducted a survey to understand the preferences of the residents and visitors to Murphey Candler Park, specifically about the City's proposed changes to the loop road on the park's east side.

The survey consisted of 12 questions that asked respondents to rate concerns and benefits of the loop road project as well as provided three opportunities for long form answers. We received 79 responses to the survey. A copy of the survey results has been provided to you via mayorandcouncil@brookhavenga.gov.

In summary, the respondents were overwhelmingly opposed to the City's plans for the loop road.

The two top concerns about the project are: concern for the safety of pedestrians and children, and the deterioration of the natural state of the park. On a scale of 0-5, 5 being the most concerning, these concerns each received an average rate of above 4.32 and 4.12 respectfully. In addition, we received numerous written responses detailing concerns about allowing vehicular traffic and parking along the loop road.

In terms of any benefits of the project, respondents rated increased ADA access and repair to the damaged road as the two factors with the most benefit. However, these potential benefits each received an average rate of above 2.33 and 2.13 respectfully on a scale of 0-5, 5 being the highest benefit.

Based on the survey results, and feedback we have received during member meetings, the Murphey Candler Neighborhood Association opposes the loop road project as currently proposed.

We ask that the Council pause existing plans for the loop road so that the residents' concerns can be appropriately addressed. We ask that the City revisit the loop road design so that the project can be scaled back to address the top concerns of protecting the safety of pedestrians and children and preserve the existing natural state of the park, by prohibiting vehicle traffic and parking on the loop road. Prior to moving forward with any of the existing plans, we ask that you allow the association to present a formal proposal outlining alternatives.

Thank you again and I yield the remainder of my time.