

Spring Branch Neighborhood and  
Park Association, Inc.  
1969 Chenango Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33755  
(727) 488-2712

Mayor, City Council and City Manager,

Thank you for this opportunity.

Clearwater is a wonderful place to live with natural beauty, good schools and diverse neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods are a part of the fabric that gives the city its vibrancy.

We noticed item 8.1 on Thursday's agenda to declare 1730 Overbrook Avenue surplus property and enter into an agreement to create an operations center for Jolley Trolley on this site.

This is a portion of city-owned property with a commercial zoning because it is partially developed with Fire Station 51 on the east side.

If an agreement is approved by the council, the remaining portion of the property would be developed to house an operations center for 10-20 administrative employees, a mechanic bay to maintain trolleys and a parking lot for about 25 trolley cars.

This is a primarily residential neighborhood. Housing the operation center for a transit company is an inappropriate and seemingly incompatible use for the surrounding area which consists of a majority of single-family homes and duplexes.

The large trolleys would travel through neighborhoods daily along Overbrook Avenue (a two-lane road with swale ditches on each side) to Douglas Avenue. From there the trolleys would either continue through the North Greenwood neighborhood or the Edgewater Drive neighborhood to connect to their routes.

This waterfront property abuts Stevenson Creek, a critical watershed for thousands of homes from Clearwater to Palm Harbor. The waterway itself has had its own history of fouling and is in a restorative state.

We understand the need for the Jolley Trolley to move to a site that fits its needs. We also understand the city has been working with the trolley operators for nearly a year to find an appropriate location. But we feel a more compatible location would be in an industrial area, perhaps along Hercules Avenue.

The Jolley Trolley is an important partner with the city and provides a valuable service for visitors and residents, but please ask, does putting this operation center in a neighborhood,

strengthen it? Is a large bus depot with such a strong visual impact on the neighborhood, in addition to the added noise, traffic and potential pollution something you would want at the end of your street?

Because of the importance of the watershed and the strength of our neighborhoods, we feel this is an inappropriate location to house operations for a transit company and ask that you do not declare 1730 Overbrook Avenue surplus property to be used for these purposes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request. Respectfully yours,

Alexandra Nixon  
President

Jared Leone  
Vice-president

Cynthia McGregor  
Treasurer