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November 7, 2010

Mr. John Fishback, Chairman
The Friends of Fleet Peoples Park, Inc.
P.O. Box 2201
Winter Park, FL 32790-2201

Re: Assault and Disorderly Conduct at Fleet Peoples Park

Dear Mr. Fishback:

As you know, the website for The Friends of Fleet Peoples Park, Inc. ("FFPP") posted an open invitation for a meeting at Fleet Peoples Park ("the Park") to occur on November 6, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. The notice stated, "We will answer All of your Questions, Please come." As you know, I am a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission and a resident of Winter Park. Also, it was my understanding that Mr. Ron Moore, a member of the Parks Department, would be present. For these reasons, and my interest in hearing any public comments, concerns, and/or questions, I decided to attend the meeting.

After arriving at the Park at roughly 10:00 a.m., I walked over to a small group that was surrounding one of the concrete picnic tables inside the off-leash area. After approximately 5-10 minutes of quietly observing the meeting and sipping my morning coffee, a member of the group pointed at me and began verbally berating me. The woman began accusing me of taking action to close the Park and of hating dogs. She told the group that I was the person causing all the problems for the Park users, which sentiment was quickly repeated by a number of others, including Sandy Womble and Joseph Brock. They were demanding to know why I was at the Park, where was my dog, why was I trying to close the Park, etc. and stating that I had no right to be in the Park. Ms. Womble was the most vocal and began collecting names and contact information for a meeting that she said would occur at her home due to my presence in the Park. The meeting continued with Ms. Womble moving her body to block my view of the meeting, and frequently turning around to call me a "bully," "narcissist," and "immoral." As Ms. Womble ridiculed me, others would try to engage me in conversation to understand my point of view. Although I politely told several individuals that I was there to listen, people continued to engage with me and some demanded that I answer their questions. When I attempted to answer, several other people would start shouting, and Ms. Womble would mock me and call me names like, "bitch," "liar," "bully," and she repeatedly told me to "shutup." Although some individuals were

polite and we exchanged handshakes and introductions, I was repeatedly berated by Carla Lubet, Mr. Brock, and Ms. Womble, all officers of FFPP.

A short time later, during a polite conversation between myself and roughly 4 other people, Ms. Womble came up behind me. Ms. Womble poked me in my left arm twice, hard enough to shove me aside. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Brock began physically shaking and screaming at me. He flew into a rage, because I informed some individuals talking with me that the fee issue had been noticed on the City Commission agenda. Mr. Brock screamed at me repeatedly to “shut-up” and called me an “idiot.” Mr. Brock’s diatribe was punctuated with “Jesus,” at which time I politely asked him not to take the Lord’s name in vain. My request prompted Mr. Brock to scream louder. Within minutes after being assaulted by Ms. Womble and screamed at by Mr. Brock, I told the individuals that had been speaking with me that it was time for me to go. Upon hearing this, Mr. Brock began screaming “leave,” and “get out of the Park.” As I was walking toward the exit not speaking to anyone, Mr. Brock continued screaming and verbally taunting me as the entire Park looked on.

Although you authored an open letter on the website of FFPP asking your supporters to conduct themselves as “civil park patrons,” I think you would agree that the conduct of the officers and supporters of FFPP was anything but civil. Your wife was witness to some of the misconduct, and she publicly defended my right to be in the Park, as though a citizen’s freedom needed to be defended. Unfortunately, she did not publicly condemn the intimidation, vulgarity, and screaming that was specifically meant to drive me out of the Park. It is one thing to have passionate views and to disagree, it is quite another to organize a mob to limit freedom with physical intimidation and personal attacks.

Please be advised that I am considering formal legal action against FFPP and its individual officers. In the meantime, this letter shall serve as formal demand to FFPP and its agents, officers, and representatives to immediately cease and desist from further defamation of character and intimidation. Please govern yourselves accordingly.

Sincerely,



Bonnie J. Jackson
THE JACKSON LAW FIRM, P.A.

cc: Mr. John Holland, Director
Parks & Recreation, City of Winter Park

Mr. Randy Knight, City Manager
City of Winter Park

Mayor and Commissioners
City of Winter Park