



ST. CHARLES PARISH

PAUL J. HOGAN, PE

COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT IV

June 17, 2008

Re: Proposed Street Name Change from Bayou Estates South Drive to Southern Estates Drive

To All Lot Owners on Bayou Estates South Drive:

This letter is being sent once again to inform property owners that the Parish Council will be considering a proposed ordinance, File No. 2008-0288, to change the name of Bayou Estates South Drive at the July 7th Parish Council Meeting. The name selected for the proposed change and which is included in the ordinance is **Southern Estates Drive**. This proposed ordinance is being presented to address my concern with the Public's health, safety, and welfare brought upon by the similarity in street names with that of Bayou Estates Drive. Many of the residents do not feel that this is warranted and I appreciate their position. I, however, strongly feel that it is warranted, which is why it is being brought forth to the Council for consideration despite the overwhelming opposition I and everyone else on the Council have received regarding the change. Believe me, this is a very difficult and unpopular position which I have taken on this matter but it is one for which I feel strongly!

As Councilman, I feel that it is my duty and obligation to address an item that could possibly lead to a situation which could endanger the life of a resident in the event of an emergency. The street names of Bayou Estates South Drive and Bayou Estates Drive being so similarly named provides the opportunity for that to occur. If I were to not take this forward to the Council and something dire were to happen to someone on one of these two streets, I would always be second guessing myself as to whether or not this name change would have made a difference. I feel that I must at least make the attempt to change the name and I would hope that each of you can appreciate that. Changing the street name will ultimately be decided by the Council based upon the input by the property owners. With that ultimate action, I can at least say that I did my part to change the name and others can say "what if" should something dire were to happen due to confusion with an address.

This issue of changing this street name had been partially addressed in the past but had never been resolved one way or the other. By taking this to the Council for a vote, this will bring this issue to an end once and for all, one way or the other. In advance, I want to apologize for the inconvenience that this will cause each of you by coming out to address this proposal or in the changing of address information should the proposed ordinance be approved.

In addition, I would like to clarify a few things that were stated by one means or another since this proposal was drafted. First of all, I was not employed by the developer of the subdivision at the time this street name was chosen as some have claimed. I had nothing to do with its naming. Next, it has been stated that there are other similarly named streets and that I am just singling out Bayou Estates South Drive for some reason or another which I find to be absurd. The other similar street names referred to are with names such as East Harding and West Harding which have a direction in front of the primary name. That is significantly different than if the street were named Harding East and Harding West. In fact, if your street were named South Bayou Estates Drive as shown on the subdivision plat, this would have never been an issue for me. Based upon my research, the only other streets in the Parish that have the primary name followed by a direction is Badeaux East and Badeaux West. The outcome of this proposal will dictate whether or not those street names will be subject to a proposed change. Next, some have claimed that this change is being proposed for the benefit of those on

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Bayou Estates Drive and that their street name should be changed instead. That is not the case! It is due to my concerns with the health, safety, and welfare of the Public and Bayou Estates South Drive was selected to be changed since it came into existence after Bayou Estates Drive. I have however come to learn that this change would go a long way in addressing issues other than Public health, safety, and welfare which arise due to the similarity. Should this proposal fail and should those living on Bayou Estates Drive request that I change their street name to solve these other issues, I would gladly take on that task to help with those issues and to resolve my health, safety, and welfare concerns. This would only be attempted provided a petition with over 50% of the residents would be presented to me knowing that that would be what it would take for passage should this proposal fail on July 7, 2008.

I would also like to point out to each of you that upon the passing of any ordinance by the Council, the Parish President has the ability to veto the ordinance which would then require a 2/3 majority of the Council to override his veto. I want you to know every option at your disposal based upon the Parish's Home Rule Charter.

At the June 16th, Council Meeting, there were a few residents of Bayou Estates South Drive that were in the audience thinking that the proposal to change the name was to be heard that night. I am sorry for the confusion with regards to this. The letter I sent out dated May 30, 2008 stated the following exactly as shown below:

"At the June 16, 2008 Parish Council Meeting, I will be introducing the proposed ordinance for the proposed street name change. **The proposed ordinance will be up for consideration by the Parish Council at the July 7, 2008 Meeting. At this meeting, a Public Hearing will be held on the proposed ordinance for input by the community prior to the Parish Council voting. All are invited to attend**".

I tried to make it as clear as possible as to which meeting the residents should attend. What apparently confused some was mentioning when it would be introduced. That apparently was more information than what was required. For that I apologize to each of you that were at the June 16th Meeting.

In closing, I look forward to having all concerned attend the July 7, 2008 Council Meeting to address your concerns to the Council during the Public Hearing on the proposed ordinance.

Sincerely,



PAUL J. HOGAN, PE
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT IV

PJH/BJT81:ag

cc: Parish Council
Mr. V.J. St. Pierre, Jr., Parish President
Mr. Timothy J. Vial, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Kimberly Marousek, Planning & Zoning Director
Mr. Eddie Beckendorf, 911 Director