

From: Ted and Dawn Baumen <TedandDawn@outlook.com> Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 8:01 AM

To: steve.heizner@universityparkrd.com

Cc: Vivian Carvalho <carvalhov@pfm.com>

Subject: Vacancy on Board of Supervisors for UPRD

Letter to the Chairperson of the University Park Recreation District

Dear Mr. Heitzner,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Board to reconsider its approach to filling the current vacancy on the University Park Recreation District Board of Supervisors and to appoint Russell Piersons, who received the next highest number of votes in the most recent election.

Mr. Piersons received 403 votes—a significant expression of support from the residents of University Park. Those votes represent hundreds of community members whose voices deserve to be recognized and respected. Appointing the candidate who received the next highest number of votes would honor the clear preferences expressed by the electorate and uphold the spirit of the democratic process.

While I recognize that the Board may have discretion in how it fills a vacancy, there is also value in following established democratic norms and customary practice. Doing so reinforces public confidence in the fairness and integrity of the Board's decisions. Conversely, choosing a different path without compelling justification risks creating the perception that the process is being altered because some may be dissatisfied with the election outcome. Whether or not that perception is accurate, it can undermine trust in the Board and the governance of our community.

Mr. Piersons' showing at the ballot box suggests that he brings a perspective that resonates with many residents and would contribute meaningfully to Board deliberations. A healthy and effective Board benefits from a diversity of viewpoints, particularly those that have been validated through the electoral process.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Board adhere to the principles of good governance, democratic representation, and customary practice by appointing Russell Piersons to fill the vacancy. Doing so would honor the expressed will of the voters, strengthen confidence in the Board's decision-making, and ensure that the voices of hundreds of residents are not disregarded.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued service to the University Park community.

Sincerely,
Ted Baumen