

**PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release**

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**‘SAVE SCC’ GROUP HITS THE STREETS TO STOP GOLF COURSE REZONING PLAN**

**Petition Drive Aims To Raise Awareness, Stop ClubLink Plans To Develop Sandpiper Golf Club and Current Closed Golf Courses in Sun City Center**

Sun City Center, FL (Oct.??, 2022) – More than 100 volunteer residents of Sun City Center (SCC) will be taking to the streets the weekend of Oct. 29-30 to encourage fellow SCC homeowners to sign a petition to stop any housing redevelopment of active and previously closed golf courses in the area.

The volunteer canvassers will be joined by many “concerned” nonresidents, all of whom are members of the Save SCC group. The organization was formed last April, shortly after ClubLink, a Canadian-based company, made the announcement of its plan to sell three of its seven golf courses – some active, some closed – in Sun City Center for future housing development.

“We believe ClubLink’s plan to sell off the golf course properties to residential developers would horribly impact the current infrastructure and quality of life for all our residents,” said Ellie Anderson, President of the Save SCC group. “Their plan would exacerbate our already over-crowded roads, while also diminishing the services and opportunities we enjoy at Sun City Center.”

The group’s volunteers plan to canvass “every home on every street” in SCC, according to Anderson.

“We want everyone to be aware of what is going on, especially the residents who have been away for the summer months,” she said. “When we talk with people, we are surprised at how many aren’t aware of the situation, and they are very thankful for the information and that we have formed our group to stop this expansion effort.”

Anderson also noted that the 27-hole Sandpiper Golf Club is one of the few affordable golf courses available for play in the community and the Hillsborough County region. Four other SCC courses, Caloosa Pines, North Lakes, Kings Point and Falcon Watch, were closed in recent years by ClubLink, greatly reducing the amount of play for golf course enthusiasts. The two other golf courses owned by ClubLink in SCC, Club Renaissance Golf Club and Scepter Golf Club, are more expensive to play than Sandpiper, and are expected to stay open.

“Many people retired here to play the golf courses, which traditionally have been some of the most affordable in our area,” said Anderson. “They don’t want more houses and less holes to play golf.”

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In addition, Anderson stressed how the proposed new development would tax the environment.

“We want to maintain what green space we have left and to stop the overcrowding of SCC facilities,” said Anderson. “It doesn’t take much effort to look around and see how our water systems, sewer systems, EMS services, etc., are already at or beyond capacity. Then you add all the other new adjoining residential development that is going on around Sun City Center, and there is just no way this can continue.

“Growth can be good, but not when it’s already taxing your everyday livelihood,” she added, “and that’s what will happen if these golf courses become more homes.”

The Save SCC group intends to present its signed petitions to the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners later this year. The commission eventually could be the final decisionmaker on whether the proposed residential expansion can proceed. Save SCC hopes the proposal never gets that far, Anderson said.

“We hope it dies a quick death during the public hearing process or with the land use committee,” she said.

“As far as we know, and we’ve been in touch with various (Hillsborough County) zoning people, ClubLink has not submitted any plans as of yet,” said Anderson. “When they announced their proposal last March, they said they expected to begin submitting proposals within a few months. That hasn’t happened.”

While they wait for the land use change to be submitted, Anderson said her group is “staying vigilant” and currently is gearing up for their door-to-door canvassing effort.

“We are determined to keep this from happening,” she said. “It’s simply bad for the community.”

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