



November 17, 2023

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Community Trust

Dear Chairman Farmer:

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Community Trust Inc., a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization, requests the Board's support by resolution for our application to the Abandoned African American Cemeteries Grant Program.

Our proposal entitled, "Restoring Crandall Cemetery: Life, Culture and Community," is a Cemetery Protection projects for the purposes of repairing, restoring, and maintaining this cemetery that has been inactive since the 1960s. Our efforts will include planning to guide the long-term preservation of the Cemetery. This includes installing monuments, signage and beautification in a manner that is culturally representative and approved by the Division of Historic Resources, consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation.

Our proposal and the resolution from the Board of County Commissioners in support of this project is contingent upon a pending letter of concurrence from Rayonier Inc., the owner of the Crandall Cemetery site.

For two years, the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Community Trust has worked to verify the existence of human burial sites unknown to the general public, to establish protections for vulnerable African American cemeteries in Nassau County and to rescue these historic cultural sites. This effort requires the cooperation of private property owners upon whose lands these cemeteries became established with the turpentine and timbering industries, during the first half of the 20th Century.

GGCCT is proud of the growing collaborative effort between our organization, as a representative of descendants buried on private lands, and the owners of such lands. The success of the effort to open access for descendants to visit ancestral burial grounds has gained momentum with several families finding solace in returning to the burial ground at Crandall. Crandall Cemetery is located off Crandall Rd. at the St. Marys River, within the footprint of coming development by Raydient+Places Inc., a subsidiary of Rayonier Inc. We are grateful for Rayonier's pledge to protect, per Florida Statute, all cemeteries on their properties.

Thank you for your consideration of this request

Glenda Simmons Jenkins
Executive Director
Gullah/Geechee Cultural Community Trust Inc.

Enclosures