

From: [Eric Cotton](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#); [Laura Marley](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision FDN #0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 5:32:38 AM

Please add to the record. More to come. TY

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

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Eric Cotton

Development Coordination Manager, Development & Growth Mgmt

City of Tampa / 2555 E. Hanna Ave / Tampa, Florida 33610

p: 813-274-7510 / e: Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

NOTICE

If you received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email.

Please be aware that, pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 119, this or any other written or electronic communication with this office may be subject to public disclosure unless expressly exempt.

Please also be advised that Development and Growth Management are affected personnel under the City of Tampa's Lobbying Ordinance. Prior to engaging in any lobbying, please go to: <https://www.tampagov.net/human-resources/info/lobbyist-information>

From: Vanessa Diaz <vanessa.diaz1114@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 10:32:12 PM
To: Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision FDN #0000181

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves. Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Feel free to personalize your message further — your unique voice matters.

Important Facts to Know:

The property is officially designated as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

From: [Eric Cotton](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#); [Laura Marley](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN #25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 5:33:02 AM

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

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Eric Cotton

Development Coordination Manager, Development & Growth Mgmt

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p: 813-274-7510 / e: Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

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From: Jeanette Viera <jlvia@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 10:12:32 PM
To: FormalDecision <FormalDecision@tampagov.net>; TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>; Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN #25-0000181

Please Help Protect West Tampa History.

Please don't allow the current owner to split a parcel of this land. It's a part of our West Tampa Heritage.

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office officially designated it as that a cemetery. There are Historical parcel lines visible on the county website showing it has always been a part of the cemetery. In 2024 Ground-penetrating radar conducted identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Marti-Colón Cemetery holds a history of our families . It would be undignified to allow this to be sold

Jeanette Viera

From: [Gina Reyes](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 8:34:58 AM

This proposed development is a horrific use of this land. Colon cemetery is a landmark in West Tampa. This would be shameful.

The cemetery needs to remain intact for its historic value and for the families it touches.

Regards,

Gina and Louis Reyes
gi.reyes@yahoo.com

From: [Velda Santiago](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 1:06:58 PM

My family is hopeful that our City of Tampa uses their empathetic hearts to Not vote this parcel for development. My grandparents mother, brother and great grandmother are buried there. We can't keep chipping away at West Tampa's history. We have already changed subdivision name to Midtown. We don't want to loose our Legacy.

Velda G. Santiago
Realtor-Broker, MAC
veldarealtor@gmail.com
BK# 185656
Lic. Real Estate Broker
Off. 813-258-4846
Cell 813-857-8659

From: [Barbara Jimenez](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Application Number: FDN-25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 11:55:06 AM
Attachments: [image0.png](#)

I am writing to express my opposition to the zoning request:

Application Number: FDN-25-0000181
Address Of Request: 3203 W. Saint John Street

I am opposing this rezoning request because this property is on Marti-Colon Cemetery land and there are unmarked graves where development is being requested. This is Sacred Land. Please do not approve this zoning.

Thank you.


Barbara Jimenez1

9:28 

 5G  32

Application.pdf 

Done



Application for Formal Decision

Development and Growth Management
Development Coordination
2555 E. Hanna Ave.,
Tampa, FL 33610
(813) 274-3100

**GOOD NEIGHBOR NOTICE FOR PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS/
NOTICE TO PARTICIPATING NEIGHBORS**

Date: 8/6/2025

Application Number: FDN-25-0000181 Open Record Period: Start 8/6/2025 End 8/21/2025

Address of Request: 3203 W Saint John Street
Split existing parcel into four (4) separate legal lots to facilitate compatible development within the
Formal Decision Request: RS-50 and CG zoning districts.

Applicant/Agent Name: Mark Bentley, Esq. & Ryan Manasse

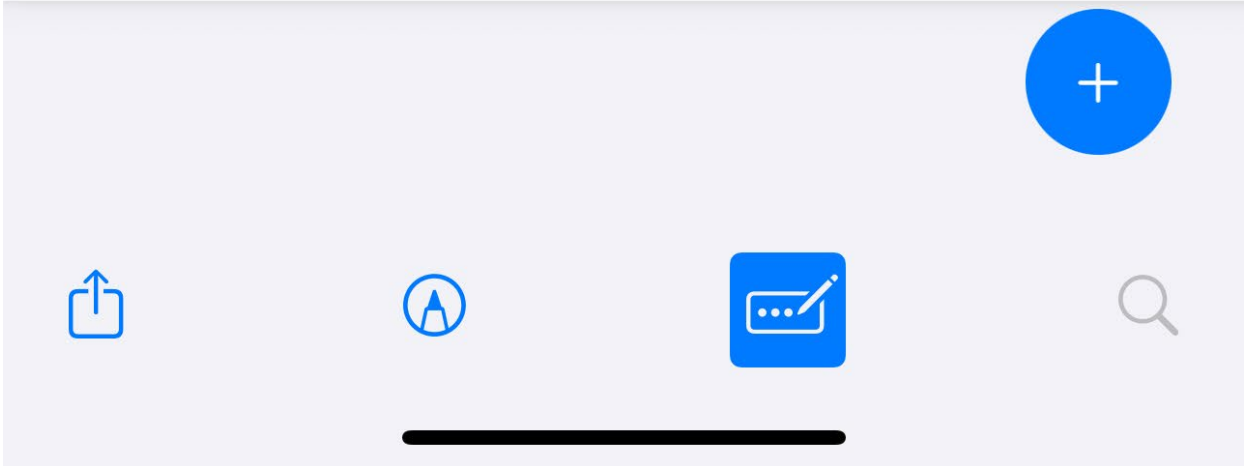
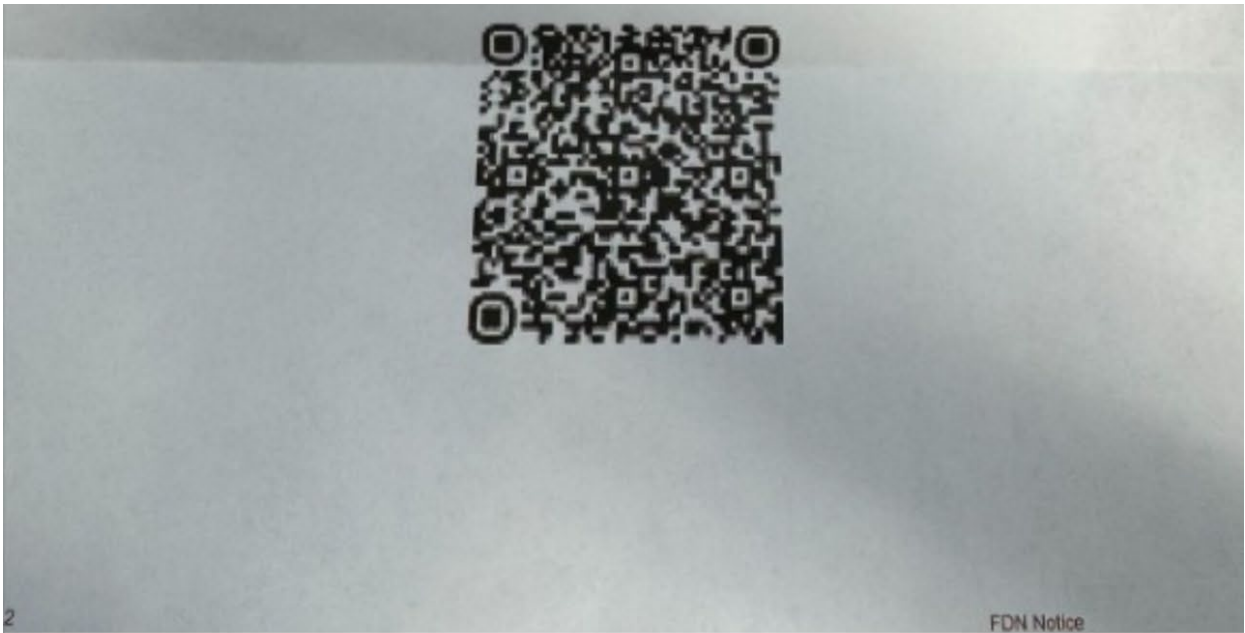
Applicant/Agent Email: development@jpfirm.com Applicant/Agent Phone: 813-225-2500

Applicant/Agent Address: 400 N Ashley Drive, Suite 3100, Tampa, FL 33602

Dear Property Owner/Participating Organization:

Please be advised that the applicant listed below has applied for a Formal Decision from the Zoning Administrator. As a surrounding property owner/participating organization, you may submit any comments in writing, to the Zoning Administrator. If you have any documentation that you would like to submit to the Zoning Administrator for consideration, please forward to Development Coordination at the address above or via email at FormalDecision@tampagov.net. Please include the case number in the subject of the letter or the email. Deadline for submittal of documentation is end date reflected in the "open record period" above.

The Zoning Administrator will not render a decision until at least 30 days from the submittal of the "affidavit attesting to notification". For more information on this formal decision request, please go to aca.tampagov.net and enter the application number or scan below:



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rhonda Dosal](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colon Cemetery
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:14:21 AM

I am writing in regard to the Colon Cemetery.

I am aware that the current owner is applying to have the parcel divided up so it can be developed. Last year, this was denied because the Ground Penetrating Radar that was performed found 79 areas of concern.

This is a very disrespectful use of this land as hundreds of bodies would have to be exhumed.

I am asking that this request be denied to protect the integrity of the sacred ground and show respect for their families and their loved ones.

The City of Tampa should have never sold this property and should agree to buy the land back to preserve the original intended use as a cemetery.

Please do the right thing!

Rhonda Dosal

From: [Vanessa Diaz](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colon Cemetery
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 8:11:13 AM

I and the entire city are very upset and oppose that you can allow the sale of a cemetery and through Craigslist. All of you should be replaced with people who care about their residents. Patrick Thorpe needs to be stopped along with you. Plus you need a new mayor with morals which apparently you all don't have! You want to build...buy all the plots from individual families and placed them in another cemetery at your cost not ours!!

From: [Julie Tomasello](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colon Cemetery
Date: Saturday, August 9, 2025 4:11:42 PM

To whom it may concern;

I am emailing in regards to the recent letter about Colon cemetery being reassigned for residential homes. I think this is a sad and awful idea to remove people from their resting place. I don't understand why there has to be any more homes and to do away with the history of that area. It's bad enough that a lot of the homes in that area and West Tampa are being knocked down and midtown is now the new name. I think we should embrace our history and keep it the way it is I don't understand the greed for more buildings and more homes. Let Colon cemetery be left alone for all that are resting in peace there !

Thank you for your help in this matter

Julie Tomasello

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Randy](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colon
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 12:13:53 AM

The proposal would be a giant slap in the face of the people of West Tampa. Colon cemetery. is a historical West Tampa Cemetery. The partial in the back contains many unmarked graves. The city of Tampa should reimburse him.(I don't understand why the taxes on that partial were not paid) what he paid for the parcel plus interest. My entire family is buried there.

Thank you very much
Randy Pines

From: [Rhonda Villamia](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FDN# 25-0000181, Colon Cemetery 3203 W. St. John St. 33607
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:45:24 PM

Dear Formal Decision Department,

I'm reaching out to you to express my opposition to the formal request submitted to COT by Patrick Thorpe for splitting the parcel which is the Colon Cemetery, located between Columbus Drive & 3203 W. St. John St. 33607 in West Tampa. The case number is FDN# 25-0000181.

This is our ancestors' final resting place, & as such, sacred ground that should not be "built over" by developers. It is very disappointing & disturbing that Mr. Thorpe, who allegedly purchased the parcel in 2018 to keep it from being developed...is now doing a complete reversal.

I would ask that his application be denied...so that the remains of those interred at Colon can rest in peace.

I understand that Tampa is rapidly growing & housing is necessary to accommodate the ever-increasing population explosion...but not at the expense of holy ground.

Thank you for your attention to this...& your consideration for the undisturbed memory of those buried there & that of their families.

Gratefully,
Rhonda J. Villamia

From: [Jennifer Pascual](#)
To: [Eric Cotton](#)
Cc: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FDN#25-0000181 / Marti Colon Cemetery
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 7:40:16 PM

I am born and raised in Tampa. My whole family is from Ybor City & West Tampa. We are not snow birds or tourist passing through for anyone to decide we don't need a part of that cemetery. I have family in that Cemetery on both sides! How is this possible with families that go to visit their deceased families. I vote against this. How can this be stopped? It's a disrespectful!

Jennifer Pascual
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aileen Henderson](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FDN-25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 12:00:52 AM

Address at Risk:
3203 W Saint John Street, Tampa, FL 33607
Reference: FDN# 25-0000181

I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves. Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Important Facts to Know:

The property is officially designated as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

Aileen Henderson
Founder

Phone: 813.863.7296
Email: TheCemeterySociety@gmail.com

SITE: TheCemeterySociety.org
FB: Facebook.com/TheCemeterySociety
IG: Instagram.com/TheCemeterySociety

From: [Barbara](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FDN-25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:07:49 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is in reference to the Application Number: FDN-25-0000181.

Address: 3203 W Saint John Street

DecisionRequest: To divide the parcel into four separate lots to facilitate development.

This issue continues to arise. This property has been tested with Ground Penetrating Radar and 79 anomalies were discovered. It is clear that there are bodies buried on that land. To consider allowing any type of development is disrespectful and heart breaking to relatives of the interred.

It seems like the owner should be made whole as he has no use for this property. I highly encourage the City of Tampa to buy back this land. It should never have been sold to a private citizen to begin with.

I truly hope that this council will do the right thing once and for all so that these souls may rest in peace.

Sincerely,
Barbara Diaz Juskowski
813-503-1509

From: [Samantha Strauss](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: FDN-25-0000188 Required Documents
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 10:23:36 AM
Attachments: [Application fdn_revised_08-2024.pdf](#)

Can we extend this application 2 weeks? We are awaiting an updated survey from our client.

Thank you,

Samantha Strauss Joanen

Business Development & Operations Lead

Rios Architecture, Inc.

(813)-591-0159

[Website](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook](#) [Google Reviews](#)

From: accelaplnnoreply@tampagov.net <accelaplnnoreply@tampagov.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 10:13 AM
To: Samantha Strauss <samantha_strauss@riosarchitecture.com>
Subject: FDN-25-0000188 Required Documents

The following documents are required for your request:

- 1) Signed and sealed surveys of BOTH properties involved.
- 2) Signed and sealed proposed surveys of BOTH properties involved after the reconfiguration, with new legal descriptions.
- 3) Signed and notarized owner/authorized agent affidavits from both property owners.

You should only apply for an application when you are prepared with all of the required documentation. If the required documents are not uploaded by 8/20/25 then your application will be withdrawn and you will need to re-apply when you are prepared with all of the required documents.

From: [Dora Hayat](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Opposition to Formal Decision-FDN #25-000081
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 9:32:02 AM

From: Dora Hayat <doramhayat@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 9:30 AM
To: TampaZoning@tampa.gov.net <TampaZoning@tampa.gov.net>
Subject: Opposition to Formal Decision-FDN #25-000081

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 West Saint John St. This is a documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased. My grandparents are buried there and so are many more of my family. Please do not disrupt their peace. They were put to rest there. Respect their last wishes.

Sincerely,

Dora Montesino Haiat

From: [Stefanie Wargo](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Marti Colon Cemetery. Formal decision number 25-000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 1:27:07 PM

I, like many other Tampa natives have ancestors who are buried at Marti Colon Cemetery. I oppose the rezoning of this property at 3203 west saint John st.

Thank you.

Stefanie Wargo

From: Jeanette Russo
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Marti/Colon
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025 9:42:47 AM

This has to be stopped. The City of Tampa needs to do something. Please don't allow this property to be sold. Families are buried there have some consideration. It's Historical named after Jose Marti a Cuban National Hero & Christopher Columbus. This is what West Tampa is all about bringing cultures together. Don't destroy this by allowing this person to sell there is more important factors here there is family ties.

Jeanette Russo

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jeanette Viera](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Marti-Colon Cementary
Date: Friday, August 15, 2025 9:56:44 PM

Why in Gods name would you allow this. Our Family member & friends are buried in this cemetery. This is wrong on all levels. For Gods sake what if it was your own family. Please stop these people from destroying the land. Leave us with our ancestors & friends.
Jeanette Viera
Sent from my iPhones

From: [cindy.suarez](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing Rezoning of 3203 W Saint John Street (Parcel FDN-25-0000181)
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 1:35:24 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I oppose the rezoning of 3203 W Saint John Street.

A GPR study found 79 potential unmarked graves on this historically used cemetery site. Rezoning for development risks disturbing human remains—an unethical and potentially unlawful act.

I strongly urge the City of Tampa to buy back this land and preserve it with the dignity and care that a burial ground demands. This would reflect a commitment to historical justice and honor the lives of those who may still rest there.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Suarez

From: [Jeanette Viera](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#); [TampaZoning](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN #25-0000181
Date: Sunday, August 17, 2025 10:12:57 PM

Please Help Protect West Tampa History.

Please don't allow the current owner to split a parcel of this land. It's a part of our West Tampa Heritage.

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office officially designated it as that a cemetery. There are Historical parcel lines visible on the county website showing it has always been a part of the cemetery. In 2024 Ground-penetrating radar conducted identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Marti-Colón Cemetery holds a history of our families . It would be undignified to allow this to be sold
Jeanette Viera

From: rgbattle@tampabay.rr.com
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN#25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 2:36:20 PM

My name is Geraldine Alvarez Battle, and I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 West Saint John Street Tampa, Florida 33607. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. The Marti Colon cemetery is listed by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office as a cemetery. How is this current owner Patrick Thorpe who is the same individual who purchased the land to help preserve it for the community allowed to even ask for a zoning request to split this parcel of land designated as a cemetery? Mr. Thorpe's request if approved will allow the parcels to be split for development as a residential dwelling or commercial building which is unacceptable, disgraceful and he should be ashamed of himself.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery. A Jewish community back in 2024 wanted to create a cemetery space for their loved ones on this same land. Mr. Thorpe allowed the Jewish community interested in purchasing the land from him to conduct ground penetrating radar of this land. When the radar survey was concluded 75 anomalies many in the shape of graves were found. Out of respect for the deceased buried in this parcel the Jewish community withdrew their offer to buy this land. This can be verified by any local news outlet they all aired this controversial story.

As many others have said before, we have all been told the stories by our family members about the much larger cemetery that existed many years ago and what still remains today. If you grew up in West Tampa as my family did, you know the cemetery extended north where Columbus Drive is located and the shopping plaza on the north side of the street and also further south. I have many family members buried in Marti Colon Cemetery including my parents Jerry and Caridad Alvarez, grandparents and great aunts and uncles on both sides of my family. If zoning is approved, it will also create traffic and other issues for the residents currently living across the street from this property on West Saint John Street.

We must be the voices for our family members buried in Marti Colon cemetery and also the voices for those individuals possibly buried in the southern parcel with no individual markers or headstones. Marti Colon cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect, we cannot allow further desecration of this cemetery. I'm standing up for dignity, the history of our loves ones and lastly standing up for West Tampa.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Geraldine Alvarez Battle

8017 N. Gomez Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33614

(813) 477-1500

From: [Mercedes Mendez](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#)
Cc: [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 11:33:08 AM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Thank you and please have some RESPECT for the dead.

From: [Pat Streuber](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:27:57 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

My family of many in Tampa strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and must be preserved and respected as such.

It is clearly listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office and historical parcel lines visible on the county website shows this land has always been part of the cemetery. Ground penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies – many in the shape of graves, strongly suggesting unmarked graves. Disturbing this land is extremely disrespectful of human dignity and the history of our community.

Many of my beloved ancestors are buried in Marti-Colon Cemetery. My paternal great grandparents, paternal great uncle, maternal aunt, uncle and 4 cousins. Further desecration of cemetery property is morally offensive and repulsive. And for what, the almighty \$\$\$ in someone's pocket? Do the right thing and deny this application. Our City desires better, West Tampa desires better, and we the people desire better.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Garcia Streuber
3203 W Empedrado Street
Tampa, FL 33629

From: [Charlie Gonzalez](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 3:26:45 PM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Please,
Jose A. Gonzalez

From: [THOS PAYNE](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#)
Cc: [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 7:19:31 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W. St John St.
This is documented cemetery land for which I have family members buried there.
Any development here would be a violation of dignity and respect for the deceased.
Please do not allow any development of this land.

Sincerely,
Debra Payne
(Concerned citizen)

From: [Andres Andrade](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 3:56:32 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street for any proposed or potential construction projects. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity. But this is not just a question of honoring the memory of relatives I have interred in this cemetery. Many of those buried here were either directly involved or had parents involved in the Cuban revolutionary movement led by José Martí in the late 19th century.

The eldest of my great aunts (Amelia Andrade) buried here was a witness to the Martí movement and already a young woman during that struggle for Cuban independence. She rests here with her husband Evaristo Guerra, from a respected family highly involved with the founding and development of West Tampa. There are many with similar stories buried here, at least 7 of whom are my relatives.

These were the individuals whose labors enabled you and me to have a quality of life of which they could have never even dreamed. Through their efforts, starting in Key West and continuing in both Ybor City and West Tampa, many of us have learned to value education, history, integrity, and in several cases, projects that benefit all persons in a community. Not just the short-term financial gain of a few who might find a way to disguise their intent with some attractive language.

For centuries and throughout the world, many if not most cultures have developed rituals and monuments to commemorate those who came before them. These same cultures, long before the development of modern communication, came to develop kindred concepts of what awaits us after death. In other words, they individually developed similar belief systems long before they could have influenced each other. A common thread among them is to respect the sanctity of the honor accorded the deceased by their descendants. Don't violate that honor.

There are other ways to make money and other places to build without knowingly disrespecting both the dead and their descendants. One day you will join them. Don't assume you know what is on the other side. Be considerate with your intentions. Respect the deceased and their families. Leave this cemetery alone.

Andrés Andrade
321 East 43rd Street #906
New York, NY 10017

Sent from my iPad

From: [Cassandra Lopez](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#)
Cc: [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 8:20:35 PM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Respectfully,
Cassandra Perez

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: Karen Vega
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN#25-0000181
Date: Sunday, August 17, 2025 10:25:15 PM

Dear Sirs,

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W. Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery where several of my family members are buried and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office.

A ground penetrating radar was conducted in 2024 where 75 anomalies, many in the shape of graves including rectangular shaped disturbances strongly suggests unmarked graves. Historical parcel lines, visible on the county website, shows this land has always been part of the cemetery.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect - we cannot allow further desecration.

I am standing up for dignity, standing up for history and standing up for West Tampa.

Respectfully,
Karen Delgado Vega

From: [Anthony Tamargo](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN#25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 7:40:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I oppose the formal decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. FYL The lots that are at the back of the property have unmarked graves I know this because I grew up in the house facing the lots.

Please Please Please do NOT let this happen. Let the dead rest in peace .

Sincerely,

Anthony "Tony" Tamargo
Claims Examiner



Direct # 813-355-5366
ATamargo@gristonclaim.com
claims@gristonclaim.com
www.gristonclaim.com

FL Adjuster License # **P029422**

This e-mail may contain confidential information protected by law and is intended solely for authorized persons. If you have received this e-mail in error, please (i) do not read it, (ii) reply to the sender that you received the e-mail in error and (iii) erase or destroy the message.

From: [Stephanie Salerno](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN#25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 6:57:01 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am strongly opposed to the request to split the parcel at 3203 W. Saint John Street. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

It is appalling that this is even being considered without serious consideration. And that someone can profit from selling land that obviously is a graveyard! I do not have any personal connection to Marti-Colon Cemetery but I am a Tampa resident who is outraged that this request is taking up Tampa city government's time and resources!

Sincerely,
Stephanie A. Salerno

From: [Lisa Levy](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); Eric.Cotton@tampagov.ne; thedreamhousetheater@gmail.com
Cc: [Lisa Levy](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN#25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 6:28:30 AM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W. Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased. Please save Marti-Colon cemetery, I have at least 7 or more family members buried in this cemetery.

Respectfully,

Lisa P. Levy

From: [Nick Battle](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN#25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 1:54:54 PM

My name is Nicholas Battle, and I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 West Saint John Street Tampa, Florida 33607. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. The Marti Colon cemetery is listed by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office as a cemetery. How is this current owner Patrick Thorpe who is the same individual who purchased the land to help preserve it for the community allowed to even ask for a zoning request to split this parcel of land designated as a cemetery? Mr. Thorpe's request if approved will allow the parcels to be split for development as a residential dwelling or commercial building which is unacceptable, disgraceful and he should be ashamed of himself.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery. A Jewish community back in 2024 wanted to create a cemetery space for their loved ones on this same land. Mr. Thorpe allowed the Jewish community interested in purchasing the land from him to conduct ground penetrating radar of this land. When the radar survey was concluded 75 anomalies many in the shape of graves were found. Out of respect for the deceased buried in this parcel the Jewish community withdrew their offer to buy this land. This can be verified by any local news outlet they all aired this controversial story.

As many others have said before, we have all been told the stories by our family members about the much larger cemetery that existed many years ago and what remains today. If you grew up in West Tampa as my family did, you know the cemetery extended north where Columbus Drive is located and the shopping plaza on the north side of the street and further south. I have many family members buried in Marti Colon Cemetery including my grandparents Jerry and Caridad Alvarez, great grandparents and great aunts and uncles on both sides of my family. I never got the opportunity to meet my mothers parents as they passed well before I was born and this cemetery is my only connection to my grandparents.

We must be the voices for our family members buried in Marti Colon cemetery and also the voices for those individuals possibly buried in the southern parcel with no individual markers or headstones. Marti Colon cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect, we cannot allow further desecration of this cemetery. I'm standing up for dignity, the history of our loves ones and lastly standing up for West Tampa.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Nicholas Battle

8017 N. Gomez Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33614

(813) 928-8382

From: [Melissa Myers](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 4:05:16 PM

At Risk:
3203 W Saint John St, Tampa, FL

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect .

Why would you want to unrest the rested for housing or development. You should be ashamed of yourselves! How would you like it if it was your family or loved ones. This is ridiculous!!!! Stop the building. Find another place to build if you have to.

God doesn't like when his people are bothered. How disgusting is that to lay a foundation over a cemetery!!!

Melissa
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Vanna Sanabria](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9:21:59 AM

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased. I have many friends and family here. This would destroy what little history there is remaining of Old West Tampa.

Regards,
Savannah Sanabria

From: [Donna Diaz](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 11:52:41 AM

SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE

CALL TO ACTION: HELP PROTECT WEST TAMPA'S HISTORY

Martí-Colón Cemetery is once again under threat — and we need your voice.

The current owner is trying to split a parcel of land that is officially listed as a cemetery and eventually each section (there will be 4 if this is approved) will be developed for a residential dwelling or commercial building. This is a sacred space, part of West Tampa's heritage — and it must be preserved.

Address at Risk:
3203 W Saint John Street, Tampa, FL 33607
Reference: FDN# 25-0000181

Here's How You Can Help:

Send a quick email to the following contacts:

TampaZoning@tampagov.net

FormalDecision@tampagov.net

Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

Subject Line: Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181

Suggested Message:

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves. Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Feel free to personalize your message further — your unique voice matters.

Important Facts to Know:

The property is officially designated as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

I have many Maternal Family Members buried there and DO NOT want them disturbed!!! It is Sacred Ground and I speak for my Cabrera/Caballero family.

Stand up for dignity. Stand up for history. Stand up for West Tampa.

Hit send and make your voice heard today.

You can also call with the same message:

813-274-3100 ext. 2

Serious Regards,
Donna L. Diaz

From: [LaTasha Henderson](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 10:55:12 AM

Hi,

I'm writing because I oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St.

Being that this is documented cemetery land and ground radar has revealed dozens of possible graves, I don't know how this is even open for consideration. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased and their loved ones. Has it been done in the past, yes we know it has but that doesn't make it right. Learn from the mistakes of those before us and do what's right. Don't desecrate this land for the sake of someone making a buck.d

Thanks, LaTasha Henderson

From: [Rose F Tozzi](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); Eric.Cotton@tampagov.ne
Cc: [Rose Tozzi Martinez](#); [Ronald F Tozzi](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 1:05:15 PM

I am against the Formal Decision application to divide the parcel located at 3203 W Saint John Street. The designation of this land as a cemetery means it deserves to be kept and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

My family has been buried in this cemetery and we have covered the costs of their final resting places. Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Respectfully,
Rose F. Tozzi
Ronald F Tozzi
Rose Tozzi Martinez

Never, never, never give up!

From: abenejoseph@aim.com
To: [TampaZoning](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Cc: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 6:55:29 AM

To All,

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves. Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Abene
Tampa Native
4th Generation Sicilian
5th Generation Spaniard

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

From: [Marissa Noguez](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 12:49:51 PM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. My family is buried here. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Thank you,
Marissa Noguez
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Maria Rosen](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 7:24:50 PM

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Thank you,

Maria Rosen
Tampa Homeowner and Taxpayer

From: [Vicki Diaz](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#)
Cc: [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 2:43:39 PM

To whom it may concern:

We strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves.

Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

We have over 5 family members buried here.

The Diaz Family
813-541-6185

From: [Danielle Battle](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN#25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:55:07 PM

My name is Danielle Battle, and I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 West Saint John Street Tampa, Florida 33607. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. The Marti Colon cemetery is listed by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office as a cemetery. How is this current owner Patrick Thorpe who is the same individual who purchased the land to help preserve it for the community allowed to even ask for a zoning request to split this parcel of land designated as a cemetery? Mr. Thorpe's request if approved will allow the parcels to be split for development as a residential dwelling or commercial building which is unacceptable, disgraceful, and he should be ashamed of himself.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery. A Jewish community back in 2024 wanted to create a cemetery space for their loved ones on this same land. Mr. Thorpe allowed the Jewish community interested in purchasing the land from him to conduct ground penetrating radar of this land. When the radar survey was concluded 75 anomalies many in the shape of graves were found. Out of respect for the deceased buried in this parcel the Jewish community withdrew their offer to buy this land. This can be verified by any local news outlet, as they all aired this controversial story.

As many others have said before, we have all been told the stories by our family members about the much larger cemetery that existed many years ago and what remains today. If you grew up in West Tampa as my family did, you know the cemetery extended north where Columbus Drive is located and the shopping plaza on the north side of the street and further south. I have many family members buried in Marti Colon Cemetery including my grandparents Jerry and Caridad Alvarez, great grandparents and great aunts and uncles on both sides of my family.

We must be the voices for our family members buried in Marti Colon cemetery and the voices for those individuals possibly buried in the southern parcel with no individual markers or headstones. Marti Colon cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect, we cannot allow further desecration of this cemetery. I'm standing up for the dignity, the history of our loved ones, and lastly standing up for West Tampa.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Danielle Battle
8017 N. Gomez Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33614
(813) 477-1209

From: [Fran Costantino](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Cc: [TheCemeterySociety@gmail.com](#); [Bill Carlson](#); [Alan Clendenin](#); [Guido Maniscalco](#); [Charlie Miranda](#); [Luis Viera](#); [Lynn Hurtak](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181 - Marti-Colon Cemetery - 3203 West St. John Street
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 9:09:24 AM

To Whom It May Concern!

This is beyond sad and wrought with GREED! This very same thing is happening periodically at Woodlawn Cemetery/Showman's Rest. A Developer wants to put "townhouses" on/near those hollowed grounds.

Owners/Property rights have all the the power - \$\$\$ talks. This is the reason why the "Historic Cigar Factories" in West Tampa are protected because of their age (over 50 years) BUT NOT designated as Historic Landmarks like those in Historic Ybor City (National Historic Landmark District). When they went before City Council - we lost 4 to 3!

Appears NOTHING is SACRED in this City! Shameful - ABSOLUTELY SHAMEFUL!!!

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W. Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Fran Costantino
Historic EAST Ybor City

From: [Yolanda Perez](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 10:16:33 AM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

My grandmother, great grandmother, and great grandmother are buried there. They bought those plots thinking it would be safe. This is so disgusting!!!

I get you want Tampa to grow but at what price.

Thank you,
Yolanda Perez

From: [Jennifer Torrens](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 9:15:01 AM

Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Jennifer Torrens Villa
Life long Tampa resident
813-610-4376

From: [Desiree Marsicano](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#); [TampaZoning](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:36:48 PM

I am writing as a concerned plot owner at **Marti-Colon Cemetery**, where my mother's entire family is laid to rest. I want to express in the strongest terms that I am **very much opposed to any development or construction on this property.**

This cemetery holds deep personal, cultural, and historical significance, and any attempt to disturb or alter it would be a profound disrespect to the memory of those interred, as well as to the families who entrusted their loved ones to this sacred ground.

I urge you to reconsider any such plans and to preserve the integrity and sanctity of the cemetery for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Desiree T Marsicano

813-767-3374

From: portalesc83@aol.com
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 8:52:02 AM

Good Morning,

As a resident who lives very close to the cemetery and have been a resident of West Tampa for 40 years.

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

This is not with in Tampa Comprehensive plan and you guys know this. Protect our land and stop developer from taking every inch of West Tampa

Thanks

From: [Jeanette LaRussa Fenton](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:23:27 AM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W. St. John. This property is adjacent to the historic Colon cemetery, likely the site of graves, and is not appropriate for development. I join many others in the community who oppose splitting the parcel and future development.

Please deny this request.

Thank you,
Jeanette LaRussa Fenton
4th generation West Tampa native and current resident

From: [Manny Alvarez](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to formal decision- FDN#25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 5:03:03 PM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W. St. John street. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of dignity, respect, and rights of those buried there. Not to mention the history of the cemetery.

Please note my opposition to approve any decision that would allow the developer to move forward with destroying our family sacred ground.

Thank you!

Manny Alvarez
407 353 0764 mobile
manny.g.alvarez3@gmail.com

From: [Yolanda Fiedler](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision FDN#25-0000181 3203 W. St. John St. 33607
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:01:34 PM

I am opposed to the application to split parcel. It is a cemetery.
Sent from my iPad

From: [Michael Vega](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision N#25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 7:17:05 PM

Dear Sirs,

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W. Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery where several of my family members are buried and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office.

A ground penetrating radar was conducted in 2024 where 75 anomalies, many in the shape of graves including rectangular shaped disturbances strongly suggests unmarked graves. Historical parcel lines, visible on the county website, shows this land has always been part of the cemetery.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect - we cannot allow further desecration.

I am standing up for dignity, standing up for history and standing up for West Tampa.

Respectfully,

Joseph M. Vega

From: [Mary Frances Granell](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); eric.cotton@tampagov.nrt
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision-FDN#25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 8:42:19 PM

My grandparents Joseph & Sarah Piazza are buried in Colon Cemetery. Therefore I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Respectfully,

Mary Frances Leto Granell

From: [Angela Alderman](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reference: Opposition to Formal Decision –FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 8:04:17 AM

Good Morning,

I am writing today to voice my stance on FDN#25-0000181 and oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. Tampa has become a regular location of such things taking place and this is not acceptable. This is sacred ground and development can be made on properties NOT land containing graves.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves. Being a direct descendant of someone who has had a loved one erased in this manner I am extremely passionate about this issue. My great Uncle, Francisco Martinez, was buried within College Hill Cemetery in which The Italian Club owns now and has zero concern for the 1200 souls that resided there before they made it their cemetery. I stand in honor and dignity for the lost who do not have a voice. I ask that you not allow this to take place for Marti- Colon Cemetery land. History can not keep repeating itself and this is how you can make the difference and not allow this sale to take place.

In closing, disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity. This is a moral injustice to both the precious souls laid to rest there...but also to their families and to this community. Do what is right.... Do NOT allow this to take place.

Address at Risk:
3203 W Saint John Street, Tampa, FL 33607

Reference: FDN# 25-0000181

Regards,

Angela Alderman Wynn

813 325 2133

From: [Tina Dallas](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject Line: Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:20:08 PM

Dear City of Tampa Zoning Officials,

I am writing to respectfully oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street, Tampa, FL 33607 (FDN# 25-0000181).

This land is officially designated as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser. In 2024, ground-penetrating radar identified 75 anomalies on this site, many in the shape of graves. Approving the subdivision of this parcel would risk disturbing human remains and permanently erasing an important part of West Tampa's cultural and historical heritage.

Martí-Colón Cemetery is sacred ground. To allow development here would dishonor the memory of those buried and disregard the dignity of our community's history.

I strongly urge the City to preserve and protect this land as a cemetery, ensuring it receives the respect it deserves.

Tina Dallas

Tampa Heights

727-452-0842

From: [Shelby Bender](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject Line: Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:49:36 PM

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

DON'T REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED AT ZION CEMETERY!!!

Sincerely,

Shelby Jean Roberson Bender,
Plant City, Florida

Co-author of Tampa's Historic Cemeteries
Past member of the Hillsborough County Historical Advisory Council (BOCC appointment)
Past member of the Historic Tampa Hillsborough County Preservation Board (Governor appointment)
Member of the Hillsborough County Historic Preservation Challenge Grant Panel (BOCC appointment)
President & Executive Director, East Hillsborough Historical Society
Chairman, City of Plant City Historic Resources Board (City Commission appointment)

From: [Latrenia Bryant](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [Eric Cotton](#); [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: Opposition to Parcel Split Application – Case #25-000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 2:25:17 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally state my opposition to the application for the parcel split at 3203 West St. John Street, Tampa, FL 33607 (Decision Number: #25-000181).

This property is a cemetery containing human remains, and it is both inappropriate and deeply disrespectful to consider development over burial grounds. Beyond the moral and ethical concerns, this site is an important part of West Tampa's history and deserves preservation, not destruction.

I strongly urge you to deny this request in order to protect the dignity of those interred and to safeguard our community's heritage.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Latrenia Bryant
(813) 541-8377

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Colon Cemetery
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 7:28:00 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: NILDA MARTIN <Nmartin2721@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:48 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colon Cemetery

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves.

Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

3203 W Saint John
Tampa Fl 33607
Case #FDN#25-0000181

Sent from my iPad

From: [Eric Cotton](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Colon cemetery
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 8:37:06 AM

Eric Cotton

Development Coordination Manager, Development & Growth Mgmt
City of Tampa / 2555 E. Hanna Ave / Tampa, Florida 33610
p: 813-274-7510 / e: Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

NOTICE

If you received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email.

Please be aware that, pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 119, this or any other written or electronic communication with this office may be subject to public disclosure unless expressly exempt.

Please also be advised that Development and Growth Management are affected personnel under the City of Tampa's Lobbying Ordinance. Prior to engaging in any lobbying, please go to: <https://www.tampagov.net/human-resources/info/lobbyist-information>

From: Gina Reyes <gi.reyes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 8:36 AM
To: Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colon cemetery

This proposed development is a horrific use of this land. Colon cemetery is a landmark in West Tampa. This would be shameful.

The cemetery needs to remain intact for its historic value and for the families it touches.

Regards,

Gina and Louis Reyes
gi.reyes@yahoo.com

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Colon Cemetery
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 8:41:25 AM

From: Gina Reyes <gi.reyes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 8:33 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colon Cemetery

This proposed development is a horrific use of this land. Colon cemetery is a landmark in West Tampa. This would be shameful.

The cemetery needs to remain intact for its historic value and for the families it touches.

Regards,

Gina and Louis Reyes
gi.reyes@yahoo.com

From: [Eric Cotton](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Colón-Martí Cemetery
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 5:36:09 AM

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Eric Cotton

Development Coordination Manager, Development & Growth Mgmt

City of Tampa / 2555 E. Hanna Ave / Tampa, Florida 33610

p: 813-274-7510 / e: Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

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Please also be advised that Development and Growth Management are affected personnel under the City of Tampa's Lobbying Ordinance. Prior to engaging in any lobbying, please go to: <https://www.tampagov.net/human-resources/info/lobbyist-information>

From: Lori Pask <pask.lori@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 10:20:26 PM
To: Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colón-Martí Cemetery

To Whom It May Concern,

I oppose the application of formal request to split the parcel of land at the cemetery located at 3203 W St John St.

Tampa, Fl. 33607

#25-000181

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Eric Cotton](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] FDN# 25-0000181, Colon Cemetery 3203 W. St. John St. 33607
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 5:37:51 AM

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

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Eric Cotton

Development Coordination Manager, Development & Growth Mgmt

City of Tampa / 2555 E. Hanna Ave / Tampa, Florida 33610

p: 813-274-7510 / e: Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

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From: Rhonda Villamia <rjvillamia12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:41:22 PM
To: Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FDN# 25-0000181, Colon Cemetery 3203 W. St. John St. 33607

Dear Mr. Cotton,

I'm reaching out to you to express my opposition to the formal request submitted to COT by Patrick Thorpe for splitting the parcel which is the Colon Cemetery, located between Columbus Drive & 3203 W. St. John St. 33607 in West Tampa. The case number is FDN# 25-0000181.

This is our ancestors' final resting place, & as such, sacred ground that should not be "built over" by developers. It is very disappointing & disturbing that Mr. Thorpe, who allegedly purchased the parcel in 2018 to keep it from being developed...is now doing a complete reversal.

I would ask that his application be denied...so that the remains of those interred at Colon can rest in peace.

I understand that Tampa is rapidly growing & housing is necessary to accommodate the ever-increasing population explosion...but not at the expense of holy ground.

Thank you for your attention to this...& your consideration for the undisturbed memory of those buried there & that of their families.

Gratefully,
Rhonda J. Villamia

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FDN-25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 7:28:20 AM

From: Aileen Henderson <thecemeterysociety@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 11:59 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FDN-25-0000181

Address at Risk:

3203 W Saint John Street, Tampa, FL 33607

Reference: FDN# 25-0000181

I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Important Facts to Know:

The property is officially designated as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

Aileen Henderson
Founder

Phone: 813.863.7296

Email: TheCemeterySociety@gmail.com

SITE: TheCemeterySociety.org

FB: Facebook.com/TheCemeterySociety

IG: Instagram.com/TheCemeterySociety

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
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3203 W Saint John Street, Tampa, FL 33607

Reference: FDN# 25-0000181

I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Important Facts to Know:

The property is officially designated as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

Aileen Henderson
Founder

Phone: 813.863.7296

Email: TheCemeterySociety@gmail.com

SITE: TheCemeterySociety.org

FB: Facebook.com/TheCemeterySociety

IG: Instagram.com/TheCemeterySociety

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FSN#250000181
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 11:44:43 AM

From: Karen Patterson <garpat3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9:40 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>; Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>; Jane Castor <Jane.Castor@tampagov.net>; Guido Maniscalco <Guido.Maniscalco@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FSN#250000181

It is hard to believe that the City of Tampa would even consider the splitting of this cemetery for development! Hasn't anyone learned anything since residents stood strong to save Woodlawn cemetery a few years back?

This is an abomination, an unbelievable consideration! Development and elimination of green-space is out of control. Tampa does not fix and develop roads with increased development which causing excessive traffic and flooding problems. The fact that this department would even accept applications for zoning changes and development on cemetery property is disgusting, and should not even be allowed to accept these applications.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE RESIDENTS OVER THE DEVELOPERS!!!

West Tampa's sacred ground is under threat — again.
The southwest section of Martí-Colón Cemetery may soon be split off and developed — despite being officially recognized as cemetery land.

If this is approved, a site containing at least 75 likely graves could be desecrated and lost to

I strongly oppose the proposal to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This land is officially designated as cemetery space, with radar confirming many likely graves. Approving development here would be a grave injustice to the deceased and our shared history.

Sincerely,

Karen G. Patterson

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Colón-Martí Cemetary
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:48:33 PM

From: Lori Pask <pask.lori@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 10:25 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Colón-Martí Cemetary

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lori Pask <pask.lori@gmail.com>
Date: August 18, 2025 at 10:20:38 PM EDT
To: Eric.cotton@tampagov.net
Subject: Colón-Martí Cemetary

To Whom It May Concern,

I oppose the application of formal request to split the parcel of land at the cemetery located at
3203 W St John St.
Tampa, Fl. 33607
#25-000181
Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: FDN# 25-0000181, Colon Cemetery 3203 W. St. John St. 33607
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:34:34 PM

From: Rhonda Villamia <rjvillamia12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:43 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: FDN# 25-0000181, Colon Cemetery 3203 W. St. John St. 33607

Dear Tampa Zoning Department,

I'm reaching out to you to express my opposition to the formal request submitted to COT by Patrick Thorpe for splitting the parcel which is the Colon Cemetery, located between Columbus Drive & 3203 W. St. John St. 33607 in West Tampa. The case number is FDN# 25-0000181.

This is our ancestors' final resting place, & as such, sacred ground that should not be "built over" by developers. It is very disappointing & disturbing that Mr. Thorpe, who allegedly purchased the parcel in 2018 to keep it from being developed...is now doing a complete reversal.

I would ask that his application be denied...so that the remains of those interred at Colon can rest in peace.

I understand that Tampa is rapidly growing & housing is necessary to accommodate the ever-increasing population explosion...but not at the expense of holy ground.

Thank you for your attention to this...& your consideration for the undisturbed memory of those buried there & that of their families.

Gratefully,
Rhonda J. Villamia

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Opposition to Formal Decision -FDN# 25-000081
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:49:25 PM

From: Celia Beaumier <betterlady123@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 9:04 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Opposition to Formal Decision -FDN# 25-000081

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Celia Beaumier <betterlady123@aol.com>
Date: August 18, 2025 at 4:27:47 PM EDT
To: TampaZoning@tampagov.net
Subject: Opposition to Formal Decision -FDN# 25-000081

Sent from my iPhone. I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 West St. John Street. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased. My whole family are buried at Marti'-Colon Cemetery. Please don't mess with these sacred graves. My name is Celia Beaumier, 4733 Grove Point Drive, Tampa, Florida 33624.

From: [Eric Cotton](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Marti Colon Cemetery - Ref# FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 5:36:55 AM

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

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Eric Cotton

Development Coordination Manager, Development & Growth Mgmt

City of Tampa / 2555 E. Hanna Ave / Tampa, Florida 33610

p: 813-274-7510 / e: Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

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From: Rosalia Gonzalez <rg369369@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 6:28:41 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Cc: Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Marti Colon Cemetery - Ref# FDN# 25-0000181

To City of Tampa,

This email is in behalf of all my family, friends, neighbors and myself.

I'm 3rd generation Spanish (Oviedo,Spain) honored and proud of my heritage. Born at A. A. Gonzalez Clinic raised in West Tampa. I oppose the decision to split the parcel at 3203 W. St. John St, Tampa , FL due to the fact that Tampa has a very unique history that has been fading away little by little with investors not caring about Tampa history nor the people that have worked so hard and tiresely to preserve it. With sadness embedded in my heart I write this because half my family & friends are buried at Marti Colon Cemetery and it should remain a sacred resting place without even entertaining the idea of having residential nor commercial building take place. I pray you will open your heart to oppose the decision to not allow greed to take over our sacred place and history of Tampa. God Bless!

Sincerely,
Rosalia Gonzalez
[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Marti Colon Cemetery - Ref# FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:31:04 PM

From: Rosalia Gonzalez <rg369369@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 6:29 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Cc: Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Marti Colon Cemetery - Ref# FDN# 25-0000181

To City of Tampa,

This email is in behalf of all my family, friends, neighbors and myself.

I'm 3rd generation Spanish (Oviedo, Spain) honored and proud of my heritage. Born at A. A. Gonzalez Clinic raised in West Tampa. I oppose the decision to split the parcel at 3203 W. St. John St, Tampa, FL due to the fact that Tampa has a very unique history that has been fading away little by little with investors not caring about Tampa history nor the people that have worked so hard and tirelessly to preserve it. With sadness embedded in my heart I write this because half my family & friends are buried at Marti Colon Cemetery and it should remain a sacred resting place without even entertaining the idea of having residential nor commercial building take place. I pray you will open your heart to oppose the decision to not allow greed to take over our sacred place and history of Tampa. God Bless!

Sincerely,

Rosalia Gonzalez

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Marti Colon Cemetery FDN #25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 7:06:54 AM

From: Yolanda Perez <Mimariposa@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 3:46 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Marti Colon Cemetery FDN #25-0000181

My name is Yolanda Dieguez Perez and I want to firmly ask zoning to put a stop to what the West Tampa/ Tampa people have brought to your attention and have been fighting for and asking you to rescue a part of sacred ground that will be desecrated if you, those in charge allow the present owners to continue on with their plans. I personally have several of our, mine and Frank Perez Jrs family members buried in this sacred ground. My paternal grandparents, Celestino and Andrea Diegez, my maternal grandparents, Antonio and Hortensia Rodriguez, my father in law, Frank Perez Sr. and it goes on and on. Aunts, uncles, cousins, Familia y Amigos que son como familia, yes, buried at Marti Colon. How can you not see our personal involvement in all this and not respect our beloved departed. All cemeteries should be respected with the utmost respect. Times are changing and going forward burying someone may be different but you do not disturb what already is and what is sacred to all of us responding and advising you of "our" demands to stand up for the West Tampa Community and reached out to you in unison. I think each of us needs notification of any meetings being held and should have the opportunity to be present.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to reach out to you.

Yolanda Dieguez Perez.

Mimariposa@tampabay.rr.com

From: [Tonia Wilcox](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Marti colon cemetery
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:38:50 PM

Tonia Wilcox

Senior City Council/City Clerk Support Specialist, City Council
City of Tampa / 315 E Kennedy Blvd 3rd Floor / Tampa, Florida 33602
p: 813-274-8131 / e: Tonia.Wilcox@tampagov.net

From: Rick Coronado <ahrmc1953@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 12:10 PM
To: TampaCityCouncil <TampaCityCouncil@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Marti colon cemetery

I am writing to voice my opposition to the current zoning request to rezone land IN and around the cemetery. Why are we even looking at the request? We already know that we have problems with cemeteries that have been paved over and built on. There are so many other places to build. The time is NOW to stop building in, on, and around cemeteries! What is "our " problem with not hearing from the families that have family buried there?

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN#25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:47:38 PM

From: rgbattle@tampabay.rr.com <rgbattle@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 2:14 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN#25-0000181

My name is Geraldine Alvarez Battle, and I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 West Saint John Street Tampa, Florida 33607. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. The Marti Colon cemetery is listed by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office as a cemetery. How is this current owner Patrick Thorpe who is the same individual who purchased the land to help preserve it for the community allowed to even ask for a zoning request to split this parcel of land designated as a cemetery? Mr. Thorpe's request if approved will allow the parcels to be split for development as a residential dwelling or commercial building which is unacceptable, disgraceful and he should be ashamed of himself.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery. A Jewish community back in 2024 wanted to create a cemetery space for their loved ones on this same land. Mr. Thorpe allowed the Jewish community interested in purchasing the land from him to conduct ground penetrating radar of this land. When the radar survey was concluded 75 anomalies many in the shape of graves were found. Out of respect for the deceased buried in this parcel the Jewish community withdrew their offer to buy this land. This can be verified by any local news outlet they all aired this controversial story.

As many others have said before, we have all been told the stories by our family members about the much larger cemetery that existed many years ago and what still remains today. If you grew up in West Tampa as my family did, you know the cemetery extended north where Columbus Drive is located and the shopping plaza on the north side of the street and also further south. I have many family members buried in Marti Colon Cemetery including my parents Jerry and Caridad Alvarez, grandparents and great aunts and uncles on both sides of my family. If zoning is approved, it will also create traffic and other issues for the residents currently living across the street from this property on West Saint John Street.

We must be the voices for our family members buried in Marti Colon cemetery and also the voices for those individuals possibly buried in the southern parcel with no individual markers or headstones. Marti Colon cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect, we cannot allow further desecration of this cemetery. I'm standing up for dignity, the history of our loves ones and lastly standing up for West Tampa.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Geraldine Alvarez Battle

8017 N. Gomez Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33614

(813) 477-1500

From: [Eric Cotton](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 9:56:09 AM

Eric Cotton

Development Coordination Manager, Development & Growth Mgmt
City of Tampa / 2555 E. Hanna Ave / Tampa, Florida 33610
p: 813-274-7510 / e: Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

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From: Sandra Wolcott <sl.wolcott51@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 9:36 AM
To: Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies, many in the shape of graves. Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

I have several family members buried there and do not want the property disturbed.

Thank you,

Sandra Wolcott

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 9:44:53 AM

From: Sandra Wolcott <sl.wolcott51@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 9:29 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office and ground - penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies - many in the shape of graves. Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity. I have several family members buried there and do not want this property disturbed..

Thank you,
Sandra Wolcott

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN #25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 12:39:21 PM

Hi Miguel,

Please see email below.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeanette Viera <jlviera@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 10:13 PM
To: FormalDecision <FormalDecision@tampagov.net>; TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>; Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN #25-0000181

Please Help Protect West Tampa History.

Please don't allow the current owner to split a parcel of this land. It's a part of our West Tampa Heritage.

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office officially designated it as that a cemetery. There are Historical parcel lines visible on the county website showing it has always been a part of the cemetery. In 2024 Ground-penetrating radar conducted identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Marti-Colón Cemetery holds a history of our families . It would be undignified to allow this to be sold Jeanette Viera

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:31:21 PM

From: Barbara Bush <ladybush206@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 5:15 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W. Saint John Street, Marti-Colon Cemetery. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies - many in the shape of graves. Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Reference: FDN# 25-0000181

[Barbara Bush](#)

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:34:56 PM

From: Pat Streuber <pstreuber@istg.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:26 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal decision - FDN# 25-0000181

To Whom It May Concern,

My family of many in Tampa strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and must be preserved and respected as such.

It is clearly listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office and historical parcel lines visible on the county website shows this land has always been part of the cemetery. Ground penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies – many in the shape of graves, strongly suggesting unmarked graves. Disturbing this land is extremely disrespectful of human dignity and the history of our community.

Many of my beloved ancestors are buried in Marti-Colon Cemetery. My paternal great grandparents, paternal great uncle, maternal aunt, uncle and 4 cousins. Further desecration of cemetery property is morally offensive and repulsive. And for what, the almighty \$\$\$ in someone's pocket? Do the right thing and deny this application. Our City desires better, West Tampa desires better, and we the people desire better.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Garcia Streuber
3203 W Empedrado Street
Tampa, FL 33629

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 1:08:12 PM

From: Donna Diaz <dldiaz1950@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 11:52 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>; FormalDecision <FormalDecision@tampagov.net>; Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181

SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE

CALL TO ACTION: HELP PROTECT WEST TAMPA'S HISTORY

Martí-Colón Cemetery is once again under threat — and we need your voice.

The current owner is trying to split a parcel of land that is officially listed as a cemetery and eventually each section (there will be 4 if this is approved) will be developed for a residential dwelling or commercial building. This is a sacred space, part of West Tampa's heritage — and it must be preserved.

Address at Risk:

3203 W Saint John Street, Tampa, FL 33607

Reference: FDN# 25-0000181

Here's How You Can Help:

Send a quick email to the following contacts:

TampaZoning@tampagov.net

FormalDecision@tampagov.net

Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

Subject Line: Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181

Suggested Message:

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Feel free to personalize your message further — your unique voice matters.

Important Facts to Know:

The property is officially designated as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

I have many Maternal Family Members buried there and DO NOT want them disturbed!!! It is Sacred Ground and I speak for my Cabrera/Caballero family.

🗣️ Stand up for dignity. Stand up for history. Stand up for West Tampa.

Hit send and make your voice heard today.

You can also call with the same message:

813-274-3100 ext. 2

Serious Regards,

Donna L. Diaz

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 12:40:49 PM

From: LaTasha Henderson <latasha_t@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 10:55 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>; FormalDecision <FormalDecision@tampagov.net>; Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181

Hi,

I'm writing because I oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St.

Being that this is documented cemetery land and ground radar has revealed dozens of possible graves, I don't know how this is even open for consideration. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased and their loved ones. Has it been done in the past, yes we know it has but that doesn't make it right. Learn from the mistakes of those before us and do what's right. Don't desecrate this land for the sake of someone making a buck.d

Thanks, LaTasha Henderson

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 12:40:03 PM

Hi Miguel,

Please see email below.

From: abenejoseph@aim.com <abenejoseph@aim.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 6:55 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>; Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Cc: FormalDecision <FormalDecision@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181

To All,

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Abene
Tampa Native
4th Generation Sicilian
5th Generation Spaniard

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision -FDN# 25-000081
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:34:45 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Celia Beaumier <betterlady123@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:28 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision -FDN# 25-000081

Sent from my iPhone. I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 West St. John Street. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision FDN#25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 12:39:44 PM

Hi Miguel,

Please see email below.

From: Vanessa Diaz <vanessa.diaz1114@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 10:23 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision FDN#25-0000181

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves. Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Feel free to personalize your message further — your unique voice matters.


Important Facts to Know:

The property is officially designated as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

 Stand up for dignity. Stand up for history. Stand up for West Tampa.

Hit send and make your voice heard today.
You can also call with the same message:

813-274-3100 ext. 2

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition To Formal Decision FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:31:12 PM

From: Irene Alonso <irenealonso2531@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 6:05 PM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition To Formal Decision FDN# 25-0000181

Save Matti-Colon

Over the weekend I attended the very first meeting of the Cemetery Society, led by Aileen Henderson. It was powerful and eye-opening — speaker after speaker shared how local cemeteries, including Martí-Colón, are facing ongoing neglect and lack of respect.

On Saturday, I also learned something that touched me deeply — cemeteries were the first unofficial parks. Families would visit their loved ones, sit, and have quiet time in nature. Cemeteries gave people peace, the same way our parks do today. That sacred purpose is why protecting Martí-Colón matters.

This isn't just about land. It's about dignity, respect, and protecting our families' future. If we don't fight now, we risk losing pieces of our community's history forever.

What makes this even more painful is knowing that years ago, a developer bought this property under the promise to protect it. Instead of honoring that commitment, he is now trying to split the parcel and develop it — ignoring its designation as sacred cemetery land.

Why It Matters:

Officially listed as cemetery land

Ground-penetrating radar (2024) found 75 likely graves

Parcel lines confirm its historically part of Martí-Colón Cemetery

Approving development would desecrate both.

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 1:08:16 PM

From: Donna Diaz <dldiaz1950@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 11:54 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>; FormalDecision <FormalDecision@tampagov.net>; Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181

Donna L. Diaz

On Mon, Aug 18, 2025 at 11:52 AM Donna Diaz <dldiaz1950@gmail.com> wrote:

SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE SHARE

CALL TO ACTION: HELP PROTECT WEST TAMPA’S HISTORY

Martí-Colón Cemetery is once again under threat — and we need your voice.

The current owner is trying to split a parcel of land that is officially listed as a cemetery and eventually each section (there will be 4 if this is approved) will be developed for a residential dwelling or commercial building. This is a sacred space, part of West Tampa’s heritage — and it must be preserved.

Address at Risk:

3203 W Saint John Street, Tampa, FL 33607

Reference: FDN# 25-0000181

Here’s How You Can Help:

Send a quick email to the following contacts:

TampaZoning@tampagov.net

FormalDecision@tampagov.net

Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

Subject Line: Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181

Suggested Message:

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Feel free to personalize your message further — your unique voice matters.

Important Facts to Know:

The property is officially designated as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

I have many Maternal Family Members buried there and DO NOT want them disturbed!!! It is Sacred Ground and I speak for my Cabrera/Caballero family.

👊 Stand up for dignity. Stand up for history. Stand up for West Tampa.

Hit send and make your voice heard today.

You can also call with the same message:

813-274-3100 ext. 2

Serious Regards,
Donna L. Diaz

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Reference FDN #25-0000181
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:49:12 PM

From: Mark Menendez <markmenendezart@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 9:00 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Reference FDN #25-0000181

I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

I have more than twenty family members buried both in the Mausoleum and on the grounds, including my grandfather, grandmother, great grandmother Engracia Menendez (born in Asturias Spain in 1862) and numerous aunts and uncles. Our family has lived in Tampa for seven generations, and represent the Spanish cultural roots of the history of Tampa, from 1905 immigrants working in the Cigar Industry to the seventh generation who work in the age of computer programming. Please cease and desist this desecration of many of the oldest families resting place.

Urgently ,

Mark Menendez

On Mon, Aug 18, 2025 at 1:28 PM Mark Menendez <markmenendezart@gmail.com> wrote:

August 18, 2025

I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves.

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

I have more than twenty family members buried both in the Mausoleum and on the grounds, including my grandfather, grandmother, great grandmother Engracia Menendez (born in Asturias Spain in 1862) and numerous aunts and uncles.

Our family has lived in Tampa for seven generations, and represent the Spanish cultural roots of the history of Tampa, from 1905 immigrants working in the Cigar Industry to the seventh generation who work in the age of computer programming. Please cease and desist this desecration of many of the oldest families resting place.

Urgently ,

Mark Menendez

On Mon, Aug 18, 2025 at 1:11 PM TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net> wrote:

Good Day,

Thank you for contacting the City of Tampa. Could you please re-send your email, as the body of the message appeared blank.

Best regards,

From: Mark Menendez <markmenendezart@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 1:00 PM

To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reference FDN #25-0000181

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Reference: Opposition to Formal Decision –FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 12:40:23 PM

Hi Miguel,

Please see email below.

From: Angela Alderman <angelagracealderman2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 8:04 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>; FormalDecision <FormalDecision@tampagov.net>; Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reference: Opposition to Formal Decision –FDN# 25-0000181

Good Morning,

I am writing today to voice my stance on FDN#25-0000181 and oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. Tampa has become a regular location of such things taking place and this is not acceptable. This is sacred ground and development can be made on properties NOT land containing graves.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, and ground-penetrating radar conducted in 2024 identified 75 anomalies — many in the shape of graves. Being a direct descendant of someone who has had a loved one erased in this manner I am extremely passionate about this issue. My great Uncle, Francisco Martinez, was buried within College Hill Cemetery in which The Italian Club owns now and has zero concern for the 1200 souls that resided there before they made it their cemetery. I stand in honor and dignity for the lost who do not have a voice. I ask that you not allow this to take place for Marti- Colon Cemetery land. History can not keep repeating itself and this is how you can make the difference and not allow this sale to take place.

In closing, disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity. This is a moral injustice to both the precious souls laid to rest there...but also to their families and to this community. Do what is right.... Do NOT allow this to take place.

Address at Risk:
3203 W Saint John Street, Tampa, FL 33607
Reference: FDN# 25-0000181

Regards,

Angela Alderman Wynn
813 325 2133

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re-Zoning of Marti-Colon Cemetary Atten: Eric Cotton
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:48:57 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Yolanda Fiedler <yolandafiedler58@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 8:22 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-Zoning of Marti-Colon Cemetary Atten: Eric Cotton

This email is in reference to Ref: 25-000181

3203 W. St John St. 33607

I am opposed to the application to split this parcel. It is a cemetery!!

Sent from my iPad

From: [Eric Cotton](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Subject Line: Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:57:48 PM

Eric Cotton

Development Coordination Manager, Development & Growth Mgmt
City of Tampa / 2555 E. Hanna Ave / Tampa, Florida 33610
p: 813-274-7510 / e: Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

NOTICE

If you received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email.

Please be aware that, pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 119, this or any other written or electronic communication with this office may be subject to public disclosure unless expressly exempt.

Please also be advised that Development and Growth Management are affected personnel under the City of Tampa's Lobbying Ordinance. Prior to engaging in any lobbying, please go to: <https://www.tampagov.net/human-resources/info/lobbyist-information>

From: Shelby Bender <sbenderpc@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:51 PM
To: Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject Line: Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect – we cannot allow further desecration.

DON'T REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED AT ZION CEMETERY!!!

Sincerely,

Shelby Jean Roberson Bender,
Plant City, Florida

Co-author of Tampa's Historic Cemeteries

Past member of the Hillsborough County Historical Advisory Council (BOCC
appointment)

Past member of the Historic Tampa Hillsborough County Preservation Board
(Governor appointment)

Member of the Hillsborough County Historic Preservation Challenge Grant Panel
(BOCC appointment)

President & Executive Director, East Hillsborough Historical Society

Chairman, City of Plant City Historic Resources Board (City Commission
appointment)

From: [TampaZoning](#)
To: [Miguel Aguila](#)
Subject: FW: Opposition to Formal Decision-FDN #25-000081
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 12:40:36 PM

From: Dora Hayat <doramhayat@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 9:34 AM
To: TampaZoning <TampaZoning@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Opposition to Formal Decision-FDN #25-000081

From: Dora Hayat <doramhayat@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 9:31 AM
To: FormalDecision@tampagov.net <FormalDecision@tampagov.net>
Subject: Fw: Opposition to Formal Decision-FDN #25-000081

From: Dora Hayat <doramhayat@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 9:30 AM
To: TampaZoning@tampa.gov.net <TampaZoning@tampa.gov.net>
Subject: Opposition to Formal Decision-FDN #25-000081

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 West Saint John St. This is a documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased. My grandparents are buried there and so are many more of my family. Please do not disrupt their peace. They were put to rest there. Respect their last wishes.

Sincerely,

Dora Montesino Haiat

From: +18134840197@tmomail.net
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Date: Friday, August 15, 2025 10:00:09 PM
Attachments: [text_0.txt](#)

.....

Please leave the cemetery alone. My grandparents are buried there and other family and friends. They were put there to rest in peace. Do not disturb their resting place.

T-Mobile

This message was sent to you by a T-Mobile wireless phone.

From: [Barbara jimenez](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Application Number: FDN-25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:32:52 PM
Attachments: [image0.png](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Barbara jimenez <jimenezbar48@yahoo.com>
Date: August 21, 2025 at 11:52:18 AM EDT
To: FormalDecision@tampagov.net
Subject: Application Number: FDN-25-0000181

I am writing to express my opposition to the zoning request:

Application Number: FDN-25-0000181
Address Of Request: 3203 W. Saint John Street

I am opposing this rezoning request because this property is on Marti-Colon Cemetery land and there are unmarked graves where development is being requested. This is Sacred Land. Please do not approve this zoning.

Thank you.

Barbara Jimenez



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Shelby Bender](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reference: FDN# 25-0000181 - 3203 W Saint John Street Tampa Fl Historic Marti-Colon Cemetery
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:48:21 PM

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such.

It is listed as a cemetery by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office

Disturbing this land disrespects both history and human dignity.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery.

In 2024, ground-penetrating radar revealed 75 anomalies, including rectangle-shaped disturbances, strongly suggesting unmarked graves.

Martí-Colón Cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect — we cannot allow further desecration.

DON'T REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED AT ZION CEMETERY!!!

Sincerely,

Shelby Jean Roberson Bender,
Plant City, Florida

Co-author of Tampa's Historic Cemeteries
Past member of the Hillsborough County Historical Advisory Council (BOCC appointment)
Past member of the Historic Tampa Hillsborough County Preservation Board (Governor appointment)
Member of the Hillsborough County Historic Preservation Challenge Grant Panel (BOCC appointment)
President & Executive Director, East Hillsborough Historical Society
Chairman, City of Plant City Historic Resources Board (City Commission appointment)

From: [Danielle Battle](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN#25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:52:42 PM

My name is Danielle Battle, and I strongly oppose the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 West Saint John Street Tampa, Florida 33607. This land is a cemetery and should be preserved and respected as such. The Marti Colon cemetery is listed by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office as a cemetery. How is this current owner Patrick Thorpe who is the same individual who purchased the land to help preserve it for the community allowed to even ask for a zoning request to split this parcel of land designated as a cemetery? Mr. Thorpe's request if approved will allow the parcels to be split for development as a residential dwelling or commercial building which is unacceptable, disgraceful, and he should be ashamed of himself.

Historical parcel lines (visible on the county website) show this land has always been part of the cemetery. A Jewish community back in 2024 wanted to create a cemetery space for their loved ones on this same land. Mr. Thorpe allowed the Jewish community interested in purchasing the land from him to conduct ground penetrating radar of this land. When the radar survey was concluded 75 anomalies many in the shape of graves were found. Out of respect for the deceased buried in this parcel the Jewish community withdrew their offer to buy this land. This can be verified by any local news outlet, as they all aired this controversial story.

As many others have said before, we have all been told the stories by our family members about the much larger cemetery that existed many years ago and what remains today. If you grew up in West Tampa as my family did, you know the cemetery extended north where Columbus Drive is located and the shopping plaza on the north side of the street and further south. I have many family members buried in Marti Colon Cemetery including my grandparents Jerry and Caridad Alvarez, great grandparents and great aunts and uncles on both sides of my family.

We must be the voices for our family members buried in Marti Colon cemetery and the voices for those individuals possibly buried in the southern parcel with no individual markers or headstones. Marti Colon cemetery has a history of controversial land use and neglect, we cannot allow further desecration of this cemetery. I'm standing up for the dignity, the history of our loved ones, and lastly standing up for West Tampa.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Danielle Battle
8017 N. Gomez Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33614
(813) 477-1209

From: [Doris La Cava](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); EricCotton@tampazoning.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Formal Decision Parcel 25000281
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:58:50 PM

This formal decision is submitted in opposition to the zoning or rezoning of or or any partitioning change to the property designation of Parcel 25000281 in Tampa, FL.

Doris Diaz La Cava
8516 Woodall Court
Tamoia FL. Tamoia, FL
(813)758-1770

From: [Gloria Wright](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); FormalDecision@tampagov.net; [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - Case: FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:20:19 PM

This is a cemetery!!! I strongly oppose the proposal to split the parcel at 3203 W. Saint John St.
What a disrespect to the deceased and their families. Not to mention on top of the bodies that are buried there.

Sincerely,
Gloria Cagnina Wright

--

"Practice the pause. When in doubt, pause. When angry, pause. When stressed, pause. And when you pause, pray."

From: [Antigua Metz](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 5:18:50 PM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Thank you

Ann Metz
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tony Pita](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 5:52:12 PM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

tony pita
3000 N Boulevard
Tampa FL 33603
813-629-9999

From: [Missy Martin](#)
To: formaldecision@tampagove.net; [Eric Cotton](#); [TampaZoning](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FDN-25-181 - Urgent
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 7:09:29 PM

The FDN application as provided in the Accela case file is both incomplete and inaccurate. Following is a list of incorrect statements or inconsistencies submitted by the applicant in the application narrative for FDN-25-181.

Incorrect Statement #1: "All lots will front a public right-of-way (North Matanzas Ave), and each lot meets or exceeds the minimum frontage requirements for the applicable zoning district. All lots are rectangular in shape, and no new streets or alleys are proposed."

Rebuttal: Not all lots front North Matanzas as stated. The Front Yards of Lots 13 and 14, and the new lot abutting on the East side of Lot 14 (former "Frederick Street" right of way), are oriented to West Saint John Street according to the surveys provided by the applicant. Following a review of the plan attached to DET-25-103, it is clear that the Narrative is lacking in detail and substance and is plainly incorrect, as that plan shows the driveway apron of that "new lot" abutting Lot 14 is accessing West Saint John Street.

Inconsistency #2: "All proposed lots will take access from North Matanzas Avenue, a public roadway with a 50-foot right-of-way. Public water and sewer are available in the vicinity and will be extended or connected as necessary to serve each lot."

Rebuttal: See statement #1 above - Not all lots front North Matanzas as stated.

Inconsistency #3: Incomplete Survey and Application

Documentation. The survey and backup documents submitted do not provide adequate detail to support the FDN approval criteria have been met.

1. The survey for the easternmost lot shows a 25'x25' piece of land at the southwest corner of the lot as "Area to be Dedicated." Is this land being dedicated to the City as ROW? There is nothing stated in the narrative about this "dedication" or its purpose. When reviewing the site plan attached to DET-25-103 (which is not part of the subject case file), it appears this portion of land will be used to place a new water meter and extension of the water and sewer lines to the new site. The purpose should be clearly labeled or clarified as this information is needed to evaluate the impacts of the request.
2. The survey for the lot to the East of Lot 15 shows 2 "signs" in the rear of the property. These are existing Cemetery signs that are located approximately 6.5 feet from the rear property line shown on the survey. As seen in the image below, these signs are only a few feet from the closest headstones in the Cemetery.
4. The survey also includes a large clouded area crossing into the rears of Lots 13, 14, and the lot abutting to the east. This cloud is noted on the survey as "Approximate start of cemetery plot locations". There is nothing noted in the Narrative or on the survey that clearly explains if there are burial plots that will be impacted, disturbed, or moved. Also, survey General Note #6 states, "No underground foundations, installations or improvements have been located except as shown." Additional clarification is needed.

5. On the new, easternmost lot (part of Lots 8 and 9), the survey shows the Cemetery's internal "asphalt road" encroaching on top of the new lot. Will this be removed/relocated? Will the Cemetery's internal access be complete and compliant with the Land Development Code and Transportation Technical Standards?

Incorrect Statement #4. "This lot split proposal is consistent with the existing zoning, land use pattern, and development code requirements of the City of Tampa."

Rebuttal: The proposed site plan is inconsistent with Transportation Technical Standards and is inconsistent with Land Development Code Sec. 22-314 (driveway design) and Sec. 22-316 (corner clearance).

Conclusion: This application is inconsistent with the Tampa Comprehensive Plan policies 19.1.1, 19.1.2, 19.5.3 and 19.5.4, and Land Development Code Sec. 22-314 and 22-316, and should therefore be denied. At minimum, this application should be deemed incomplete until such time as a full, complete, and accurate narrative is provided and the surveys provided are updated to include clear and pertinent information regarding the accurate boundaries of the Cemetery, burial plots, and the Cemetery's internal asphalt road. New public notice and a new Open Record Period should also be required upon acceptance of an updated, complete narrative.

From: [Don Madrid](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Friday, August 22, 2025 9:15:38 AM

All:

I am strongly opposed to the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street for any purpose. It is a cemetery! You are already well aware of the modern, credible evidence that suggests that bodies are buried in the section that is proposed for development.

MY FAMILY has lived in close proximity to this graveyard for many generations. I know of at least one that was killed by the mafia in that area. The bodies that are buried in the section proposed for development might include MY ANCESTORS. You cannot allow this in good conscience!

If you allow this atrocity, your decision cannot be undone. Please reject FDN# 25-0000181.

Thank you.

Don Madrid

From: [Don Madrid](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Friday, August 22, 2025 9:15:41 AM

All:

I am strongly opposed to the Formal Decision application to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John Street for any purpose. It is a cemetery! You are already well aware of the modern, credible evidence that suggests that bodies are buried in the section that is proposed for development.

MY FAMILY has lived in close proximity to this graveyard for many generations. I know of at least one that was killed by the mafia in that area. The bodies that are buried in the section proposed for development might include MY ANCESTORS. You cannot allow this in good conscience!

If you allow this atrocity, your decision cannot be undone. Please reject FDN# 25-0000181.

Thank you.

Don Madrid

From: [Missy Martin](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: FDN-25-181 - Urgent
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 10:39:35 PM

The FDN application as provided in the Accela case file is both incomplete and inaccurate. Following is a list of incorrect statements or inconsistencies submitted by the applicant in the application narrative for FDN-25-181.

Incorrect Statement #1: "All lots will front a public right-of-way (North Matanzas Ave), and each lot meets or exceeds the minimum frontage requirements for the applicable zoning district. All lots are rectangular in shape, and no new streets or alleys are proposed."

Rebuttal: Not all lots front North Matanzas as stated. The Front Yards of Lots 13 and 14, and the new lot abutting on the East side of Lot 14 (former "Frederick Street" right of way), are oriented to West Saint John Street according to the surveys provided by the applicant. Following a review of the plan attached to DET-25-103, it is clear that the Narrative is lacking in detail and substance and is plainly incorrect, as that plan shows the driveway apron of that "new lot" abutting Lot 14 is accessing West Saint John Street.

Inconsistency #2: "All proposed lots will take access from North Matanzas Avenue, a public roadway with a 50-foot right-of-way. Public water and sewer are available in the

vicinity and will be extended or connected as necessary to serve each lot."

Rebuttal: See statement #1 above - Not all lots front North Matanzas as stated.

Inconsistency #3: Incomplete Survey and Application Documentation. The survey and backup documents submitted do not provide adequate detail to support the FDN approval criteria have been met.

1. The survey for the easternmost lot shows a 25'x25' piece of land at the southwest corner of the lot as "Area to be Dedicated." Is this land being dedicated to the City as ROW? There is nothing stated in the narrative about this "dedication" or its purpose. When reviewing the site plan attached to DET-25-103 (which is not part of the subject case file), it appears this portion of land will be used to place a new water meter and extension of the water and sewer lines to the new site. The purpose should be clearly labeled or clarified as this information is needed to evaluate the impacts of the request.
2. The survey for the lot to the East of Lot 15 shows 2 "signs" in the rear of the property. These are existing Cemetery signs that are located approximately 6.5 feet from the rear property line shown on the survey. As seen in the image below, these signs are only a few feet from the closest headstones in the Cemetery.

4. The survey also includes a large clouded area crossing into the rears of Lots 13, 14, and the lot abutting to the east. This cloud is noted on the survey as "Approximate start of cemetery plot locations". There is nothing noted in the Narrative or on the survey that clearly explains if there are burial plots that will be impacted, disturbed, or moved. Also, survey General Note #6 states, "No underground foundations, installations or improvements have been located except as shown." Additional clarification is needed.

5. On the new, easternmost lot (part of Lots 8 and 9), the survey shows the Cemetery's internal "asphalt road" encroaching on top of the new lot. Will this be removed/relocated? Will the Cemetery's internal access be complete and compliant with the Land Development Code and Transportation Technical Standards?

Incorrect Statement #4. "This lot split proposal is consistent with the existing zoning, land use pattern, and development code requirements of the City of Tampa."

Rebuttal: The proposed site plan is inconsistent with Transportation Technical Standards and is inconsistent with Land Development Code Sec. 22-314 (driveway design) and Sec. 22-316 (corner clearance).

Conclusion: This application is inconsistent with the Tampa Comprehensive Plan policies 19.1.1, 19.1.2, 19.5.3 and 19.5.4, and Land Development Code Sec. 22-314 and 22-316, and should therefore be denied. At minimum, this application should be deemed incomplete until such time as a full, complete, and accurate narrative is provided and the surveys provided are updated to include clear and pertinent

information regarding the accurate boundaries of the Cemetery, burial plots, and the Cemetery's internal asphalt road. New public notice and a new Open Record Period should also be required upon acceptance of an updated, complete narrative.

From: [Martin, Melanie \(CMG-Tampa\)](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Cc: [Sam Militello](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lot split at 3203 West Saint John Street.
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 10:22:24 PM

Dear Zoning Administrator,

I am writing to respectfully as a resident of Saint John Street to request that you deny the application for a lot split at 3203 West Saint John Street. The reason is simple and obvious: this property is a cemetery.

It is deeply concerning that, once again, an attempt is being made to sell off or develop these lots for residential or commercial purposes. Such proposals are wholly inappropriate for the site, and it is difficult to understand why the City has not updated its zoning or codes to prevent these repeated efforts from moving forward.

I urge the City to take a firm stance in protecting this property from improper development and to put safeguards in place so that similar applications are not considered in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Melanie Martin
Sam Militello

From: [Tony Pita](#)
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 5:52:12 PM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

tony pita
3000 N Boulevard
Tampa FL 33603
813-629-9999

From: [clr2lnd](#)
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Construction in and around Colon Cemetary.
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:42:22 PM

I vehemently oppose any construction on or near Colon Cemetary, as my Parents and Grandparents have been laid to rest @ said cemetary. To add new development over unmarked graves would be considered desecration.
Of course developers don't give a DAMN about morals and ethics; all they care about is making money. Pure Slime. Nothing against Slime. Charles Diaz.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Celia Beaumier
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision- FDN# 25 0000181
Date: Friday, August 22, 2025 5:34:22 PM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 West Saint John Street. This is dominated cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased. My name is Celia Beaumier, 4733 Grove Point Drive, Tampa, Florida 33624. Please do not do this. My entire family is buried there. Sincerely yours

From: Rhonda Valdez
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Marti Colon Cemetery re-zoning objection!
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 5:43:06 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this email in regards to the rezoning of the Marti Colon cemetery. I have family members that are at their final resting place at Marti Colon. All though I have been told they will not be disturbed I have concerns about the development and that disruption of the unmarked graves. I strongly object to the rezoning. I feel it should remain as it is in respect for all at their final resting place.

Thank you,
Rhonda Valdez

From: Antigua Metz
To: [TampaZoning](#); [FormalDecision](#); [Eric Cotton](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision – FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 5:18:50 PM

I strongly oppose the request to split the parcel at 3203 W Saint John St. This is documented cemetery land, with ground radar revealing dozens of possible graves. Any development here would be a violation of history, dignity, and respect for the deceased.

Thank you

Ann Metz
Sent from my iPhone

From: louis claudio
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Preserve Mart-Colon Cemetery
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:46:16 PM

Please do the right thing and preserve this site from development. It's not complicated...what if it were the resting place of your loved ones. Thank you, Louis Claudio

From: Gloria Wright
To: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Formal Decision - FDN# 25-0000181
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:31:24 PM

To whom it may concern:

Marti Colon Cemetery is just that...a cemetery!!! I strongly oppose the proposal to split the parcel at 3203 W. Saint John Street. What a disrespect this would be to the deceased buried there and their families. Not to mention building on top of bodies that are buried there!

Sincerely,
Gloria Cagnina Wright

--

"Practice the pause. When in doubt, pause. When angry, pause. When stressed, pause. And when you pause, pray."

From: [Eric Cotton](#)
To: [Vanessa Diaz](#)
Cc: [FormalDecision](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Colon Cemetery
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 1:36:02 PM

Thank you for your email. It will be added to the record.

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Eric Cotton

Development Coordination Manager, Development & Growth Mgmt

City of Tampa / 2555 E. Hanna Ave / Tampa, Florida 33610

p: 813-274-7510 / e: Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net

NOTICE

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Please be aware that, pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 119, this or any other written or electronic communication with this office may be subject to public disclosure unless expressly exempt.

Please also be advised that Development and Growth Management are affected personnel under the City of Tampa's Lobbying Ordinance. Prior to engaging in any lobbying, please go to: <https://www.tampagov.net/human-resources/info/lobbyist-information>

From: Vanessa Diaz <vanessa.diaz1114@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 1:08:03 PM
To: Eric Cotton <Eric.Cotton@tampagov.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colon Cemetery

How dare you allow Patrick Thorpe to develop any kind of structure on sacred grounds of deceased relatives especially my parents my grandparents answer uncles and my sister and I are supposed to be buried there as well this man needs to be stopped at all expense and even if it takes your job if we need to we will do whatever we can to get him out of the picture and if it means getting you all out of the picture too so be it doesn't affect you apparently in any way cause it's not your relative or your mother or father And if this happens may you all rot in hell