



December 13, 2022

Mr. Brent Leggs  
Executive Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Leggs,

The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA), owner of the property located at 1234 Avenue D, Fort Pierce, FL 34950, is pleased to fully support the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen Inc. in its grant application to the African American Cultural Heritage Fund of the National Trust for funding to staff the museum. Furthermore, the FPRA authorizes the Highwaymen to undertake the proposed grant-funded project.

On November 8, 2022, the FPRA entered into a long-term lease agreement with the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen Inc. for the purpose of establishing a museum devoted to the legacy of the Florida Highwaymen on this property. The building is located in the heart of Lincoln Park, Fort Pierce's historic African American community. It is named in honor of Jackie L. Caynon Sr., a licensed general contractor, who was well-known for his community service, which included membership on the St. Lucie County Bi-Racial Committee, the NAACP, Executive Board of the St. Lucie Democratic Club, and many other organizations. Caynon was also the first Black elected official in St. Lucie County, serving on the Fort Pierce City Commission for five terms beginning in 1966. The naming of this City building recognizes Caynon's community service efforts and commitment to Fort Pierce over the years.

The Florida Highwaymen were a group of dedicated African American artists, who captured the enigmatic landscapes of the area around Fort Pierce in the 1950s and 1960s and beyond. Because they were African American, they were long overlooked by the art community.

The City of Fort Pierce is committed to supporting the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, Inc. in their efforts to establish this long-awaited and much-needed museum to recognize the resilience of these now-famous and well-loved local artists, as well as others who continue in their footsteps.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson, Mayor