Richard Willard

2240 Lazy Lane

Lazy Lake FL 33305

July 15, 2021

Dear Neighbors:

Evan Anthony has resigned as Mayor of the Village of Lazy Lake. The Village Council previously appointed me as President of the Village Council which allows me to act as Mayor when the Mayor is disqualified, absent, or disabled. The Village Council has the duty to declare the Mayor’s seat vacant, and endeavor to appoint a person as Mayor or call for a special election. In our next Meeting, the Council will consider a Resolution similar to those used previously to establish a process to consider any candidates for the Office of Mayor, and to confirm my appointment as Acting Mayor until the process is complete. The current Term of Office for the Vacant Seat of Mayor expires March 31, 2022. I would like to thank Evan for his service to our Village as both as Council member and Mayor.

Lisa Tayar has also resigned as Administrative Assistant to the Village. I have identified a candidate for this position, Tedra Allen. Tedra is experienced in municipal government administration. I will recommend that the Council approve her selection at its next meeting. I would like to thank Lisa for her years of diligent service to our Village.

The past year and a half have been a difficult time for most of us. Concerns about COVID have interfered with our ordinary lives in many ways, and only recently have things begun to return to normal. It has also been a difficult time for our Village government. In-person meetings were suspended, and routine administration of Village business became more cumbersome.

As an incorporated municipality, we are subject to the same legal requirements as any city in the state even though we are much smaller in size. For some years the Village government has been subject to investigations by the Broward Office of Inspector General which found numerous legal deficiencies. Only last year were these matters resolved after extensive efforts by the Village government and its legal counsel. Continued diligence will be required to assure that we remain in compliance with all legal requirements.

The Village employs a part-time administrative assistant but otherwise has no paid staff to perform governmental functions. The Mayor and Council members are unpaid volunteers. Most municipal services for our residents are provided by Broward County, the City of Wilton Manors, or the City of Fort Lauderdale. The Village government’s primary functions are to:

* Manage relationships with the County and Cities regarding services provided to our residents.
* Hire service providers to maintain the property owned by the Village, which consists of Lazy Lake and Lazy Lane.
* Contract for trash collection for residents.
* Manage the Village’s revenues and expenses.

At the last Village Council meeting, many residents and property owners seemed to be surprised and upset that the Village government is seriously considering a merger or annexation by Wilton Manors. This is a topic that has been discussed at Council meetings for several years and reported in the minutes which are publicly posted on our website. In April of 2019 a public workshop was held to allow extended discussion and exchange of information on this topic. At that point we were unable to proceed because of questions about the legal status of the Mayor and Council. These questions were finally resolved in March 2020 when the Mayor and Council were validly elected to 2-year terms. However, the COVID pandemic made it difficult for the Village government to resume discussions with Wilton Manors until recently.

The Council has not made a decision that our Village should become part of Wilton Manors. The resolution that was presented at the last Council meeting has been redrafted to make that point clear. However, we do need to discuss the topic with Wilton Manors in order to make an informed decision. In the meantime, we also need to make sure that the Village government continues to perform its functions effectively for the benefit of our community.

During the fiscal years 2017-20 the Village ran deficits totaling around $65,000 and our budget for 2020-21 projects an additional deficit of over $14,000. Our reserves, which were once over $100,000, are projected to fall to approximately $30,000 by September 30, the end of the current fiscal year. If the Village is to remain an independent municipality and provide a reasonable level of services to our community, we cannot continue this pattern of deficit spending.

Our next Village Council meeting will be held on Tuesday July 20 at 6:30 pm at the usual location. In the future I hope that we can meet in a more spacious location, but this will require a resolution of the Village Council.

For those of you who do not know me, I purchased my home in our Village in 2013. If any of you would like to schedule a time to meet with me in person or talk by telephone, please email me at [Richard@LazyLakeFL.US](mailto:Richard@LazyLakeFL.US).

Richard Willard

Acting Mayor