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June 15, 2026

Dear Members of the Lee County Boca Grande Parking Advisory Committee:

At the last two Boca Grande Parking Committee meetings we presented our request that your committee recommend to the Lee County Board of Supervisors that the Boca Grande Parking Code be amended to include parking on the Gilchrist median between 2nd and 3rd Street on Sunday Mornings and Christmas Eve.

Parking on the median is very important, at certain times, to the life of our church. The removal of 50% of our median parking (vs. the other two Gilchrist churches who have not been so targeted) has produced complaints and concerns amongst our parishioners and measurable negative impact to our attendance.

This committee asked if we could try again to work out something with the neighbors. We have more than offered to meet any reasonable concern that our neighbors and our local government might have by forfeiting our permitted right for all other special events, other than Christmas, to have access to the section of the median just South of our Church. We want to be good neighbors, but I think you all heard the comments from the neighbors the last time we were together. They had no interest in working with us. And we have heard this from some of them multiple times.

Noting that our parking request is not on the agenda for the June 17, 2026 meeting, we respectfully request that it be added to the agenda for the following meeting presently scheduled for October 2026. We also request that a specific motion be made at that time to recommend to the Lee County Commissioners that the Boca Grande Parking Ordinance be amended to allow parking on the Gilchrist Median between 2nd and 3rd Street on Sunday Mornings and Christmas Eve.

We think it is important for our community to know which of the Committee Members support this proposal, and we be allowed to know what harm this may cause from those who oppose. We remain respectfully persistent with our just and necessary demand for a return to the adequate parking that until this year allowed our church to function at the high levels of community service and solicitude you have all observed.

Thank You for Your Consideration.

Rev Daphne Johnson, Sr. Pastor
Peter Soderberg, Council Chair
Randy Reid, Trustee Chair