

# ***Briarwood Area Residents***

*Please ask all registered voters in your home to sign and turn in the enclosed petition to de-annex from the City of Meridian and take control of our taxes and services.*

16 years ago in 2008, the City of Meridian forcibly annexed the Briarwood area known as Parcel 1 (see map). This increased our property taxes by 32%, tripled garbage fees, and imposed unwanted city regulations. They said it was for our own good and promised within 5 years to “improve existing streets and drainage...install water lines ...sewage disposal lines, sewage treatment facilities” and to increase policing with “2.5 uniformed officers per 1,000 residents.” Instead, our taxes went toward an \$18 million cost overrun in renovating City Hall. In the years since, the City has not even maintained its basic service levels downtown, dropping the police force from 99 uniformed officers in 2008 to about 30 today, and letting their sewer system decay to the point that they were fined by the EPA and are now under a consent decree to spend \$100+ million on a 15-year project to repair it. Parcel 1 subdivisions repeatedly flood, and most homes remain on septic tanks and private sewage lagoons, while the City refuses to replace failed culverts, maintain ditches, install the promised sewer system and water lines, or take responsibility for ongoing property damage. When Marion Police and Lauderdale County Sheriff units patrolled this area before annexation, crime was minimal. But they were displaced by the Meridian Police Department, which seldom has a car to spare to patrol this far north. Crime has exploded, with car thefts and break-ins becoming routine. The City’s murder rate has skyrocketed and gunfire victims within city limits are now a weekly occurrence.

Fortunately, MS state law has a solution for such a situation. Citizens who are not receiving necessary services from their municipality can form their own independent *Public Improvement District*, elect their own governing board, and set their own tax rates to provide those services, including water, sewer, drainage, roads, policing, and fire protection. A court order could force the City to fund this district from past and future taxes. The district can be created even without de-annexation. Imagine what we could do with just half of the \$10 million in taxes Meridian has collected from us so far to fix our flooding, replace septic systems with sewerage, install new water lines and hydrants, and improve policing. If we do nothing, our next \$10 million in City taxes will continue to be spent on their federal-scale problems downtown.

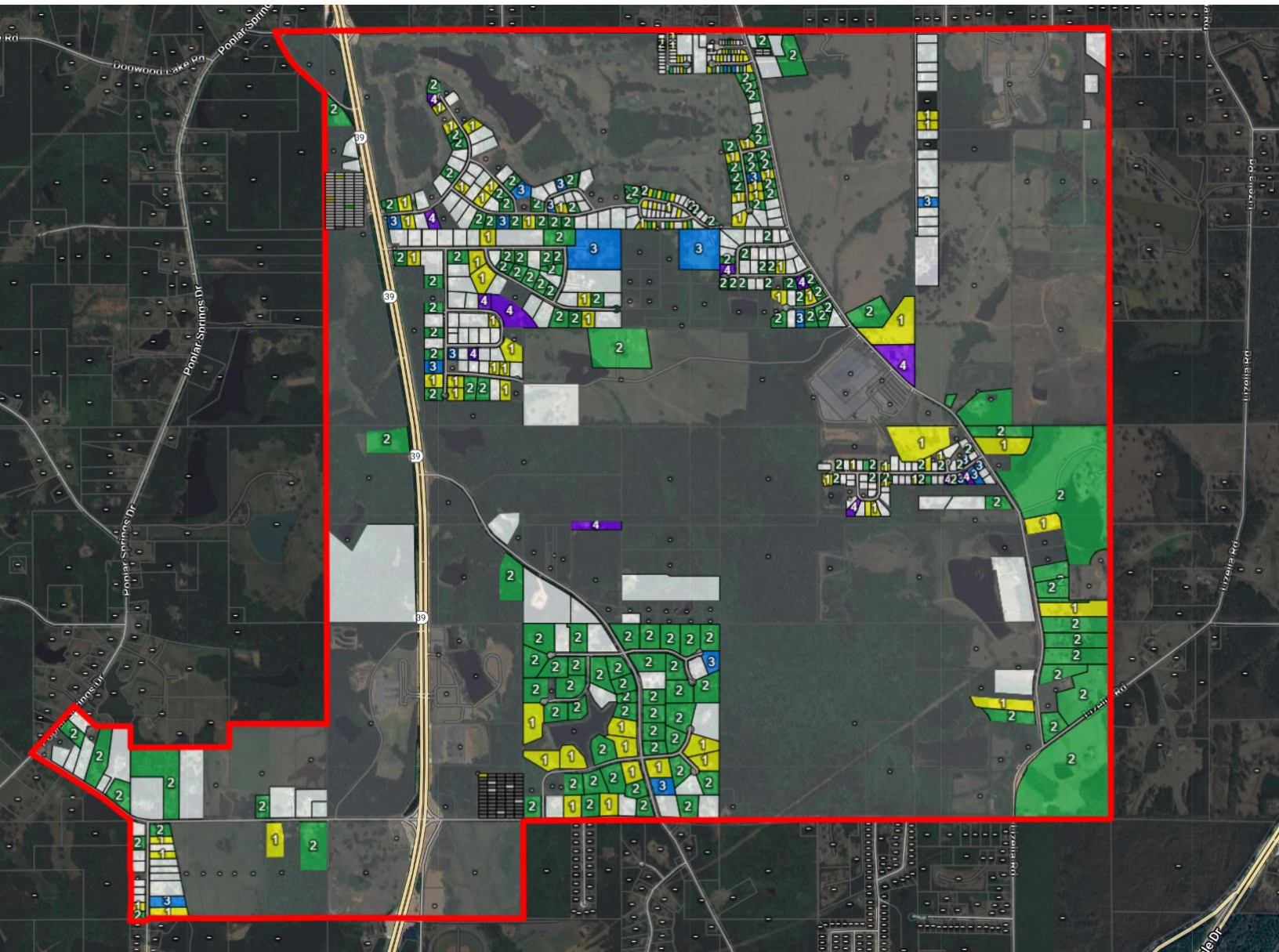
The first step to freeing ourselves from the irresponsible City is to gain legal leverage by filing our de-annexation petition in Chancery Court. Since all the residents of Parcel 1 are members and customers of North Lauderdale Water Association and the City’s unfulfilled promises directly affect our water system, our board and members voted to facilitate this de-annexation effort. We have consulted with a Jackson attorney specializing in annexation and municipal law, and he has agreed to take the case once the petition is filed. Attached is a petition form we developed that has already been signed by more than 580 residents. We ask you to join them. Find more information and blank petition forms on our website <https://nlwa.ms/parcel1>.

# Parcel 1

## Map of Properties and Petition Signatures



***Join over 580 of your neighbors who have already signed the petition.***



***See updated map:***

***<https://diamondmaps.com/map.ashx?mid=24035>***

## A PETITION

### TO DE-ANNEX *PARCEL 1* FROM THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

1. We, the undersigned eligible voters (qualified electors) who reside in the properties enumerated below that were involuntarily annexed as *Parcel 1* by the City of Meridian in 2008 after a lengthy court battle; and who, for 14 years since, have failed to receive the substantial benefits of annexation promised to the Mississippi Supreme Court and have no reasonable prospect of receiving them; do hereby petition the Council and Mayor of the City of Meridian to immediately and without the insult of further litigious opposition to the will of the people, make such resolutions and modification of ordinances necessary to de-annex *Parcel 1* and return it to unincorporated status in the County of Lauderdale. We file this petition with the Chancery Court of Lauderdale County, Mississippi in accordance with MS Code § 21-1-45 (2020).
2. Whereas all of the *Parcel 1* properties lie entirely within the certificated service area of North Lauderdale Water Association, Inc. (NLWA); and whereas all *Parcel 1* property owners with water service are members of NLWA; and whereas, by vote of its members, NLWA has been empowered to facilitate the democratic process of de-annexation among its members; we hereby also clearly express our will that all communications from the City of Meridian to any of the undersigned *Parcel 1* de-annexation petitioners on the issue of de-annexation be directed to NLWA using the contact information below, as our appointed agent for communications and clearinghouse for information sharing on this issue.

North Lauderdale Water Association  
Attn: President Todd "Ike" Kiefer  
9709 Mount Carmel Road  
Bailey MS 39320  
[parcel1@nlwa.ms](mailto:parcel1@nlwa.ms)  
<https://nlwa.ms/parcel1>

3. Attachments: (1) Legal description of Parcel 1; (2) Plat of Parcel 1; (3) Map of NLWA service area; (4) List of reasons why de-annexation serves public convenience and necessity.

PPIN:	Street Address: (Please Fill In)		
Names of Eligible Voters Who Reside Here		Signature	Date

**Every Signature Counts. Please have all registered voters at this address sign above.**  
**You may return this petition by any of the following methods:**

1. Texting a phone photo to [601-917-4766](tel:601-917-4766)
2. Emailing a scan or photo to [parcel1@nlwa.ms](mailto:parcel1@nlwa.ms)
3. Mailing it to 9709 Mount Carmel Road, Bailey MS 39320
4. Delivering it to the NLWA main office at the above address