



President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of Johnny Harris, Basileus of Theta Tau Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, this letter is in support of your designation and use of the Antiquities Act to establish Freedom Riders National Monument, *from the bus station to the gas station*, in and just outside of Anniston, Alabama.

The local Chapter was proud to have taken the first step towards this designation on the sacred ground where the Freedom Rider's bus was famously burned on Mother's Day in 1961. It was in August of 2002 our Theta Tau Chapter placed a historical marker at this location gaining the support of the community and region. Since then the Freedom Riders Park committee has spearheaded this effort. A photograph from the day is enclosed.

Our Chapter honors and appreciates the recent agreement signed between the National Park Service (NPS) and OPPF. Dedicated to collaboration that protects, preserves, and promotes NPS sites dedicated to the legacy of important African-American figures in U.S. history, Freedom Riders National Monument would be a logical and most welcomed outcome. This Park concept, "from the bus station to the gas station," has made available for immediate transfer to the National Park Service both properties: the Greyhound Bus Station where the Freedom Riders were first attacked and the five acre site where the bus was burned at Forsythe Store.

According to a retired NPS planner - Very seldom do park development teams see so many resources in place that enable excellent interpretation and visitor experience. The Freedom Riders sites in and around Anniston are remarkable in their potential power—authentic structures, preserved landscapes, an array of candid and dramatic photographs, live recordings, living participants, living eyewitnesses, strong potential for artifact recovery and authentic props, and experience zones that elicit a powerful sense of place.

Thank you for your consideration in designating Freedom Riders National Monument.

Sincerely,

Willie L. Duncan
21 Pawnee Drive
Anniston, Alabama 36206

cc: Jon Jarvis, Director National Park Service
Sally Jewell, Secretary of Interior
Christie Goldfuss, Managing Director CEQ
Richard Shelby, US Senator
Johnny Harris, Basileus, Theta Tau Chapter
Antonio F. Knox, Sr., OPPF Grand Basileus