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**Ulysses D. Jenkins**  
**Special Projects Coordinator**  
**Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners**  
**(850) 875-8650**  
[ujenkins@gadسدnecountyfl.gov](mailto:ujenkins@gadسدnecountyfl.gov)

**Greenshade-Dogtown Communities Focused on Volunteer Fire Station**

**Gadsden, FL-** The Greenshade and Dogtown communities have shown what a grass root community action can achieve by working with local government. These small communities located in northeastern Gadsden County, just west of Havana, has seen loss of both life and property that would galvanize any community. Since 2010, five residential fires, one claiming the lives of four family members, has banded these communities together in an effort to bring fire services to their communities. Approximately fifty percent of the residences within these communities live at least five miles from the nearest fire station or fire hydrant – the National Fire Protection Association endorses 1.5 miles for first-due engine company.

Gadsden County Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, PhD. began meeting with the communities regularly to assist in establishing fire services. He states, “One of the roles and responsibilities of the Gadsden County Board of Commissioners is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the county by, among other services, providing fire safety and disaster response services. These two combined communities have been a dead zone with no immediate fire service station for far too long. I am grateful to the Board of County Commissioners for its support of public safety and this process of getting a fire station for this community started. In addition to safety, a fire station in this area is expected to lower the fire insurance rates for people living in the Greenshade-Dogtown Communities. “

In May, the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners approved the purchase of two unimproved acres located on Salem Road. This strategic location makes the future volunteer fire station suitable to service both communities while supporting adjacent volunteer fire stations. The volunteers have since began forming their organization by electing officers, preparing articles of incorporation and scheduling training for the volunteers. Gadsden County Fire

Coordinator Andre Walker has been meeting with the citizens and assisting in their organizational and training efforts. "This is a great accomplishment and collaboration between two communities and the Board of County Commissioners. It is yet another example that Gadsden County is committed to improving services while and the quality of life for our citizens", stated County Administrator Robert M. Presnell.

The Greenshade-Dogtown Volunteer Fire Station, and other volunteer fire stations around Gadsden County, are still looking for volunteers willing to serve and protect their communities. Applications are available at the Gadsden County Office located at 9-B Jefferson Street, Quincy or by calling 850 875 8650 to request an application. Your volunteer services are greatly needed to make

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**Picture Caption:** Commissioner Anthony O. "Dr. V" Viegbesie, PhD. visits future site of Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Station.