

Planning Commission's Public Hearing on August 9, 2007

The following thoughts are submitted in support of retaining the existing open and democratic process of involving the entire community in community visioning, land use planning and land parcel zoning. Creating a land use plan for the city that can also influence the county and raise the quality of life for all citizens is one of the most important objectives to achieve by our local politicians. Education of our precious young people and providing safety and security for all citizens are equal in importance but all three are linked to quality of life issues.

Because of its importance to each and every citizen, community planning and land use zoning must be subject to the democratic process. No one individual can possibly cause this process to be viewed as unbiased or unprejudiced by influential forces without a process that involves all citizens and not just developers. Therefore the process must be open and visible. Concerns for the environment, for appropriate social needs, for reasonable business opportunities, for health and welfare of all must be subjected to and weighed and priorities set through a process that is fair, equitable and open for all to participate.

The suggested would be a move antithetical to overall goals of nurturing and involved citizenry. We urge defeat of this proposal and a move to development of a sound planning process that brings together all factions of our wonderful community.

10/8/07

Submitted by Mary Helen Windell