



Tuscaloosa Neighborhoods Together, Inc.
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April 29, 2008

Mayor Walt Maddox
City Hall
2201 University Blvd.
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Re: Early Notification and Public Participation Ordinance

Dear Mayor Maddox:

Working together and sharing ideas to build our community is why I joined TNT 3 years ago and it's why many people join and form neighborhood associations all over the city. I strongly believe that neighborhoods help transform a city into a community and they are an important component of the bottom-up communication I've heard you talk about. We share your core beliefs, that "Comprehensive planning is essential to preserving the integrity of our neighborhoods, promoting economic development and ensuring a real sense of community" and that the City of Tuscaloosa should be a customer friendly and its work should be open, efficient and effective.

We believe that the adoption of an Early Notification and Public Participation Ordinance as a component of our planning and zoning process is in keeping with your core values. This proposed ordinance will do three things:

1. It will speed up planning and approval overall by getting developers and local residents together early to discuss a project. It gives everyone a chance to share information and concerns and iron out potential problems early.
2. It will reduce the divisive and often confrontational nature of the planning process and make the environment for the planning process more open, efficient, effective and friendly.
3. It will help strengthen those neighborhood-level relationships that are so vital to our communities by bringing people together to discuss common issues.

I hope that TNT and the City can partner to strengthen neighborhoods all over the city. It is in this spirit that we present the enclosed proposed Early Notification and Public Participation Ordinance along with attendant documents and request that you support and facilitate its adoption.

Sincerely,

Ken King - President
Tuscaloosa Neighborhoods Together, Inc.

CC: Tuscaloosa City Council

Enclosures