

Memorandum

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Bob Morgan, Interim City Manager

DATE: July 30, 2009

SUBJECT: IFYI

IFYI HIGHLIGHTS

- Draft Land Development Ordinance
- Alternative Traffic-Slowing Strategies: Intersection of Vanstory & Ontario Streets
- Local Ethics Legislation
- Interval Times for GTA Bus Route 15
- Funding Update: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Draft Land Development Ordinance (LDO)

CORRECTION: The meeting time for the final community meeting was incorrectly listed in last week's *IFYI*. The correct details are:

- **Thursday, July 30, from 6-8 PM at the GTCC Campus on East Wendover Avenue**

If a member of City Council wishes to arrange an individual session to review the Draft Land Development Ordinance (LDO) document, please contact Dick Hails, Planning Director @ 373-2922. City staff has prepared a PowerPoint (PP) presentation outlining the main issues on the project goals, process, format changes, procedure and changes in standards. Estimated time to review the PP slides is 45-60 minutes. If you prefer, staff will gladly meet individually with a Council Member to respond to specific questions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The current ordinance (including appendices that have been moved into the new draft LDO) is 434 pages long. You may recall it is formatted in a basic two-column style that Muni-Code uses with almost no indentation and has tables as the only type of graphic included to help the reader. In the draft LDO, the document is 514 pages (70 more pages than the current document), but it includes many add-ons specifically requested to help users understand, find and use the document more easily. Here are some of the key add-ons recommended by citizens to make the document more user-friendly:

- Improved Definitions Section to better clarify the meaning of key words (added 22 pages).
- Included photos and definitions of each type of sign in the Sign Section and in other places.
- Added 40-50 new diagrams and a number of new tables in the text to help the reader understand some difficult text sections.
- Added a new section to help users find a "specific use" more easily and confirm which land use category it is in (23 pages).
- The new formatting of the document provides much more indentation and white space to improve readability generally.
- Removed non-essential text throughout the document and combined some zoning districts in others, which results in a net increase in the length of the document.

Alternative Solutions for Slowing Traffic along the Intersection of Vanstory & Ontario Streets

GDOT Engineering staff will partner with the developer, Koury Corp. to generate traffic-slowing strategies as the new multi-family development comes on line.

Local Ethics Legislation

A measure has reached Gov. Beverly Perdue's desk which would require local government bodies like school boards and county commissions to adopt ethics codes. The House agreed Monday to Senate changes to legislation that would require codes that must highlight the need for elected or appointed officials to avoid impropriety and to comply with open meetings and public records laws. The elected and appointed officials also would have to receive two hours of ethics education within 12 months of taking office. Supporters say the requirement is designed to reinforce ethical behavior among local elected officials. (Source: The Associated Press, 7/27/09).

Interval Times for Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) Bus Route 15 on Summit Avenue

It takes one hour for a bus to travel from the starting point of Route 15 to its ending point. This bus route, which is GTA's newest, is the only one with an interval time greater than thirty minutes. As a result, GTA is actively seeking funding to reduce the interval time on this route to thirty minutes. Additionally, the GTA Board has made decreasing Route 15's interval time to thirty minutes as its top service enhancement priority.

Funding Update: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

- **COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) Grant Application:**

As you may know, the COPS Office's first CHRP award announcement occurred on July 28, 2009. Unfortunately, the city of Greensboro's CHRP proposal for 30 new officers was not selected for the July 28th announcement. With an abundance of high-quality grant applications and a limited amount of funding available, COPS was faced with many difficult funding decisions. Many applicant requests were reduced due to the high demand relative to the amount of funding available, with the goal of distributing CHRP officers to a greater number of jurisdictions. Ultimately, however, COPS was able to fund only 1,046 (14%) of the 7,272 CHRP requests received during the 2009 solicitation.

Although Greensboro was not among those announced, please note that the CHRP funding request has not been denied. Currently, the CHRP application remains under a "pending" status within the COPS Office, which means that the proposal is still under consideration. Once the COPS Office receives our Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations, they will know whether additional hiring funds are available and can then determine how best to proceed with all pending requests. No action is required of the City of Greensboro at this time. The COPS Office will contact the city if additional information is needed.

Please note that funding selections for this GRANT announcement were based upon a variety of factors, including (but not limited to) statutory mandates which govern how CHRP and other COPS hiring funds are to be allocated, as well as each applicant's fiscal health, UCR-reported crime, and community policing plans.

For more information on the CHRP announcement, please visit our CHRP applicant web page at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2265>. This site provides additional information about the CHRP program, and a more detailed description of how applications were evaluated. A Frequently Asked Questions document can be found at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2208>.

- **Community Development Block Grants Award:**

The City received notification (July 27, 2009) that the US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development approved our application for \$510,817 of Community Development Block Grant funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). These funds will be used for eight activities that will create jobs, improve energy efficiency of affordable housing units, and improve the accessibility of several city recreation areas.