



Unity in the Community for Progress

Durham, North Carolina

February 6, 2009

Chancellor Charlie Nelms
North Carolina Central University
1801 Fayetteville Street
Durham, North Carolina 27707

Dear Chancellor Nelms:

For the past year, members of Unity in the Community for Progress (UCP) have expressed grave concern about impacts from NCCU's master plan on neighborhoods surrounding the university. These concerns have been shared with you and NCCU trustees in public meetings and also through the following correspondence:

- February 27, 2008 letter which outlined our initial concerns about the master plan and which was furnished at your request
- April 23, 2008 petition with over 500 signatures opposing the master plan
- September 8, 2008 request to rescind/amend the plan
- September 8, 2008 senior study outlining the master plan's impact on community elders
- October 30, 2008 request to speak to the trustee board and for information on the plan's approval/funding process
- November 5, 2008 request to speak to the trustee board and for information on the plan's approval/funding process

Although your September 19, 2008 letter indicated that you would share our request with the trustee board, there has been no response to our request to speak to the trustees or for public information about the master plan's approval/funding process. We regret that the university has chosen not to respond to citizens' repeated requests for public information about the activities of NCCU, which is a state agency. The university's continued silence on these requests is troubling.

Our research has revealed that North Carolina law and UNC policy require state agencies to report on the "environmental aspects and consequences of their actions". Master plan approvals and the demolition of properties over 50 years old with historic significance have specifically been identified as activities triggering potential major environmental impacts and requiring compliance with state environmental laws.

Under the provisions of the North Carolina Public Records Act, UCP requests copies of all environmental assessments, studies, reports and any other documents completed by or on behalf of NCCU in compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act

of 1971 (NCEPA) -- also known as the State Environmental Policy Act of 1971 (SEPA) and UNC Policy 1300.3(R).

Your written response can be directed to Larry Hester, 908 Fayetteville Street, Suite 201, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

Sincerely,

Larry Hester
Fayetteville Street Planning Group

Alvis Aikens
Twin Lakes Community Association

Rev. Casimir Brown
C. C. Spaulding Community Watch Association

Elaine Cardin
Old Hillside Neighborhood Association

Joseph Fleming
Southside Neighborhood Association

Brenda Freeman
Nelson Street Neighborhood Association

Jackie Green
Merrick Moore Community Club

Amelia Thorpe
Dunbar Street Community

Bettie Richardson Dixon
Collier Heights Neighborhood Association

Rev. Sylvester Williams
Hayestown Neighborhood Association

Harold Chestnut
Unity Village Community Association

Anita Keith-Foust
Durham Justice and Fairness Inter-
Neighborhood Association

Darian Zubia
El Kilombo Intergalatico

CC: NCCU Board of Trustees
NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources
Representative Larry Hall
Representative Paul Luebke
Senator Floyd McKissick
Representative H. M. Michaux
Representative Winkie Williams
UNC Board of Governors
UNC Council of State
UNC President Erskine Bowles
UCP Members