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ATTACHMENT 2

American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina
 American Civil Liberties Union Legal Foundation of North Carolina
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Chapel Hill Town Council
and Ralph Karpinos, Town Attorney
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

October 28, 1999

Re: Amendment of Campaign Disclosure Ordinance

Dear Council Members and Ralph:

On behalf of the ACLU of North Carolina, I would like to thank you for your thoughtful and prompt action in response to our request that you amend your recently passed ordinance requiring "first dollar" disclosure of all campaign contributions to candidates for municipal election in the Town of Chapel Hill. The Council's action allowing for anonymous contributions of less than \$20.00 will permit citizens who want to make small donations to candidates to participate in the political process without fear of retaliation.

While we are very happy that you understand and respect the important right of anonymous political participation, we do have some reservation, as did some on the Council, that the \$20 amount is low. We recommended the \$50.00 amount as more narrowly tailored to address the perception of potential corruption that the disclosure law is presumably intended to ameliorate. We intend to monitor the effect of the \$20.00 exception to see how it operates in practice. It is our sincere hope that the Council continue to consider the effect of the Ordinance on public participation in campaigns in Chapel Hill.

Again, we appreciate your cooperation on this important issue. It was a pleasure attending your meetings this month. You all do a great service to the Town.

Very truly yours,

Deborah K. Ross
Executive/Legal Director

10/29/99 -
Dist. to council
Cal - kj

