



May 4, 2009

Mayor Kevin Foy
Chapel Hill Town Council
405 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Re: The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service
Men's Shelter

Dear Mayor Foy and members of the Chapel Hill Town Council:

On behalf of the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service I wish to petition you for the following:

- 1) Expedited Review of a Special Use Permit Application to be submitted by The Inter-Faith Council for the development of a new Men's Shelter to be located on property leased from The Town of Chapel Hill.

The Inter-Faith Council (IFC) proposes to develop and run a new Men's Shelter for homeless men as a public service. The IFC is a local non-profit organization providing services in southern Orange County including shelter for homeless men, shelter for homeless women and children, meal services, a food pantry and counseling.

Expedited review will allow the IFC to maintain a certain schedule through the review process. This is important for assuring non-local funding sources and others that specific progress targets can be achieved within specified funding cycles. It is also important to maintain momentum for local funding and fundraising purposes.

- 2) Consideration by the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Chapel Hill Community Design Commission of a Concept Plan submittal for the development of a new Men's Shelter prior to the summer recess of the Chapel Hill Town Council.

The Inter-Faith Council is requesting review prior to the summer recess in order to support the expedited SUP review and for many of the same reasons.

- 3) A Zoning Text Amendment to change the definition of a Shelter in the Chapel Hill Land Use Management Ordinance.

The current definition of "shelter" in the Chapel Hill Land Use Ordinance indicates a resident population of 25 persons. Demand in the current Men's shelter, the proposed Men's shelter and the shelter for Women and Children exceeds 25. The demand for these services indicates that defining a population of 50 will more reasonably describe the need and the populations being served in 2009.

Sincerely,



Josh Gurlitz