

February 4, 2008

Mayor Kevin Foy and Chapel Hill Councilmembers
Mayor's Office
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Mayor Foy and Councilmembers:

I am writing as a follow-up to the Town Council meeting on January 28, 2008, in particular regarding the issue of fire protection at the Estates at Oxford subdivision. First and foremost we want to emphasize that we are in complete agreement with you about the importance of safety for our fire fighters and the future residents of this subdivision.

You raised many points during the discussion that evening, and we very carefully reviewed your feedback regarding the addition of residential sprinklers. The next day, on January 29, 2008, we contacted Matt Lawrence (the Fire Marshall) to determine if there were additional fire protection options that he would favor. On February 1, 2008, we met with OWASA, followed by another meeting with Town Planning Staff and the Fire Marshall to discuss the options we were researching.

From this latest due diligence, the most favorable option appears to be the installation of a fire hydrant at the entrance to the subdivision that would connect to an existing 8" water line that runs along Woodward Way. The Fire Marshall supports this option because it is the best long-term solution and is what Chapel Hill firefighters use every day. In addition, a fire hydrant at this location would not only serve the Estates at Oxford, but it could also serve several other homes located close to the subdivision.

Regarding the feasibility of this option, we have found that a fire hydrant may not be prohibited by the Urban Services Boundary agreements if we can determine that it is not an extension of service – rather an addition of a hydrant for fire protection purposes. These homes would not connect to the hydrant, and it would only be used in the case of emergencies. We hope to gather more feedback on the viability of this option from OWASA and the Town of Chapel Hill.

As we explore additional fire protection options, our goal remains unchanged since we began this process: to work together with Town Planning Staff and the fire department to identify the best solution for all involved. We hold the collaborative development review process in the highest regard, and we believe that as all viewpoints are expressed and considered, the safest and most favorable resolution will be found.

We look forward to continuing this process through with you on February 25, 2008. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Greene
Scout Development