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Joyce Smith

From: Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 3:12 PM
To: 'Michelle Lewis'
Cc: Toni Pendergraph; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Sonna Loewenthal; Owen Franklin; Emily Dickens; Woodrow Barfield; Andrea Rohrbacher; Cam Hill; Dianne Bachman; Doug Schworer; Mike McSwain; Sally Greene (sally@sallygreene.org); Terri Tyson; Thatcher Freund; 'Rudy Juliano'; Pat Evans; Bill Strom; Council Member Dorothy Verkerk (dverkerk@nc.rr.com); Ed Harrison; Flicka Bateman ; Jim Ward (W) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins (rr)'
Subject: RE: Petition to Provide More Opportunity for Public to Consider Staff Reports

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.
 Carol Abernethy
 Exec. Asst., Manager's Office
 Town of Chapel Hill

-----Original Message-----

From: Michelle Lewis [mailto:mlewisunc@yahoo.com]
 Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 9:02 AM
 To: Cal Horton; Town Council
 Subject: Petition to Provide More Opportunity for Public to Consider Staff Reports

Dear Mr. Manager,

I would like to petition the Town Council to consider allowing citizens more time to review staff reports before the Town Council discusses them at their meetings.

Currently, most staff reports are released to the public the Thursday before the upcoming Monday night Council meeting. And sometimes the reports are not online until Thursday afternoon.

That gives interested members of the public only a handful of days to consider the report, gather additional information, have their own meetings to discuss the report, and prepare the comments they would like to make to the Town Council at the Council's meeting.

Based on my year of experience in the Office of the Mayor, I know that many times members of the public expressed to me their frustration that they did not have enough time to fully consider the report before having to come before the Town Council with their comments.

Given that a well-informed, well-considered public is the Town's and Staff's goal, it seems to me that the Town should give the public more time to consider the Staff's hard work. Additional time, I believe, will result in fewer knee-jerk reactions by the public.

I know from experience how incredibly hard your staff works to prepare thorough, thoughtful, accurate, and comprehensive reports. As you know, the reports sometimes can be very thick, with many fact-filled attachments. I ask that the Town consider giving the public more time to review, study, and consider the Staff's conclusions and recommendations.

Please let me know the date of the Town Council

meeting for which this petition will be slated for consideration.

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Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Lewis

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