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## ATTACHMENT 3

For presentation on: April 14, 2004

Dear Mayor Foy and members of the Council:

I would like to present the following petition on behalf of the citizens group Neighborhoods for Responsible Growth (NRG).

In light of your recent resolution accepting the recommendations of the Horace Williams Citizens Committee, and in light of recent UNC movement in relation to the draft plans for the tract, we ask you to consider the following constructive suggestions:

1. Schedule a series of Council work sessions on the Horace Williams development.  
A work session could help Council focus on where and how to begin collecting the information necessary to answer the fundamental questions presented in the HWCC report and determine what further work and information-gathering need to be done in follow-up work sessions.
2. Designate at least one town staff member who will work exclusively on issues regarding the Horace Williams tract until all research, information-gathering, and process development are complete. Such a huge project deserves this concentrated attention.
3. Insist that the terms of any development on the tract adhere to the neighborhood protection clauses of the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
4. Resist pressure to engage UNC in early meetings on modifications to its Carolina North plan. The latest modification includes some movement in positive directions. However, we strongly urge the Council not to be pressured into going forward on any Horace Williams project before the necessary information-gathering, Council discussions and additional public hearings are complete. We also urge the Council not to schedule further informational or other meetings with UNC until this information-gathering is complete, and adequate Council discussion and public meetings have taken place. Agreeing to further meetings with UNC before reaching consensus on an approach to dealing with these issues would be premature, and could send the wrong message: that the town is ready to accept and move forward on this plan. Further meetings with UNC would be much more useful after the fundamental high-impact issues have been addressed. Any development of Horace Williams is a long-range project with profound implications for Chapel Hill and deserves the utmost care and deliberation.

We applaud the Council's creation of the HW Citizens Committee and adoption of that committee's recommendations. We also endorse the comments presented to the Council on March 22, 2004, by the Coalition of Neighbors near Campus. These comments (which you made a part of your resolution accepting the Committee report) provide a list of examples of some of the basic issues that still need to be addressed, and ask the Council to carefully review each of the recommendations of the Horace Williams Committee Report to determine which ones need further work and how to proceed. We urge you to remember that we are still at the very start of this process. As the governing body with jurisdiction over this property, you have the responsibility to set the pace and the terms of the process.

The citizens of Chapel Hill welcome the Town Council's exercise of its authority over all aspects of the Horace Williams development process. UNC's agenda and plans for the future must be aligned with the thoughtful visions for Chapel Hill's future that have been established by the Town and its citizens. There is a time for cooperation, collaboration and discussion, and we believe it is imperative for local governments to clearly set the rules and the standards. This is a legislative legacy that will far outlive us all.

We hope you will consider our suggestions.

Thank you.

Neighborhoods for Responsible Growth  
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