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Statement to Planning Board
March 15, 2005

Good evening, and thank you for hearing my statement.

I'm speaking tonight on behalf of the citizens group Neighborhoods for Responsible Growth. I would just like to state our position on this rezoning for the record.

We support rezoning the Horace Williams tract to OI-2 wherever it is currently OI-3, and leaving any areas that are currently zoned R-2 unchanged.

Rezoning the OI-3 portions to OI-2 would create a uniform zone in the area proposed for development. As it currently stands, the Carolina North campus would straddle two very different zonings, so the need for a uniform zone seems clear. We favor the application of a uniform zone that includes Town Council approval for major projects. As proposed, Carolina North would be the largest development in Chapel Hill history. It is imperative that citizens have a voice in it through their elected representatives.

As for the R-2 portion, the latest concept plans for Carolina North and statements made by university officials indicate that there is no plan to build on those areas. In the absence of any designs on this part of the tract, and given the great interest among citizens to try to preserve at least this portion of it, it seems wise to leave this area R-2.

I hope you will consider recommending the Town Council vote to rezone only the OI-3 portion of the tract to OI-2.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Neighborhoods for Responsible Growth

(Map 1 was attached)