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Sent: Friday, May 31, 2002 11:15 AM  
To: billstrom@nc.rr.com; dverkerk@mindspring.com; ed.harrison@mindspring.com; Kevin Foy;  
mark@cdpl.org; wardjl@email.unc.edu  
Subject: Hillsborough St. Sidewalk

Dear Council Member,  
May 31, 2002

I am very concerned about the Delta Epsilon Fraternity's request for a special use permit. I strongly recommend that the Fraternity be required to install a four-foot sidewalk with at least a one-foot vegetative strip on its frontage on Hillsborough Street. The two foot stone wall (which is in bad repair in any case) should be removed or moved away from the street to accommodate the sidewalk. Some smaller trees and one large tree, which is of little intrinsic value, will have to be removed. They should be replaced with appropriate landscaping nearer the building.

Hillsborough Street is a main artery between Air Port Road and the University. It experiences both high vehicle and high pedestrian use. It should be a high priority of the Town to have sidewalks on both sides of this street all the way from Air Port Road to Franklin Street. It is a curving street down a steep hill and is very dangerous for pedestrians to cross. Many students and university employees live in the apartments at the lower end of the street and walk to the University. At the present time, sidewalks appear and disappear all up and down both sides of the street making it necessary for pedestrians to cross the street.

There is a bus stop on Hillsborough Street at this point, which nobody uses because they would have to stand in the street to wait for or exit the bus.

The Fraternity begs that it can't afford to put in the sidewalk. However, the property that the sidewalk will be on is being sold by the Delta Epsilon Fraternity to a wealthy former fraternity member. This will enable the fraternity to build their new building at a price of over a million dollars. The cost of the sidewalk of say 60 feet at \$20.00 a foot would only be \$1,200. No curb and gutter is needed and the wall need not be rebuilt. According to the builder, the space between the existing building and the street is currently 10 feet, which only leaves five feet between the sidewalk and the building. This would be under current regulations for setbacks. However, in this older part of town many setbacks do not comply with current regulations and the safety of pedestrians should be a higher consideration.

The Town has just paid to put a sidewalk from Hillsborough Street to the Greenway on Bolingwood Drive although there is no continuous sidewalk on Hillsborough Street to connect with it. It makes no sense.

I would like to point out that the Town is requiring another developer on Rosemary Street to install a five-foot wide sidewalk plus a five-foot amenity strip on Mitchell Lane, which has less vehicle and pedestrian traffic than Hillsborough Street.

I think it is very important that the Town not pass up this opportunity to get another section of this sidewalk built. Other opportunities will come to complete other sections and eventually Hillsborough Street will be safe for pedestrians!

Sincerely, Eva Metzger