

Em POWERment INC.

Reclaiming the POWER of our Communities

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February 19, 2003

To: Mayor Kevin Foy and Town Council Members

From: EmPOWERment, Inc.

RE: 613 Sykes Street Request for Exception

This is a request for exception for the potential homeowner of 613 Sykes Street. As many of you are aware Sykes Street has long been an area in need of homeownership to curtail some of the drug and loitering problems in the neighborhood. We have identified a family anxious to purchase the home at 613 Sykes. Recently there has been some question about her actually being a resident of Chapel Hill. We are petitioning the Council for an exception to the residency requirement rule on behalf of this family.

Prior to starting the process to purchase this home, the single mother of this three-member family either lived or worked in Chapel Hill for well over twelve years. While she lived at 139 Johnson Street in Chapel Hill, she was employed at K & W Cafeteria in Chapel Hill from 1990 until 1996. She worked at the Lincoln Center as a volunteer and most recently worked in the Work First Program for Department of Social Service, which placed her in a position in the Pine Knolls Community. Due to the lack of affordable rental opportunities, she was forced to move outside the city limits to Carrboro. While working towards the purchase of the home at 613 Sykes Street, she relocated temporarily to her parents' home 1917 New Lystra Road Chapel Hill, NC. The 'Chapel Hill' address was ambiguous. This portion of Lystra Road actually turned out to be in Chatham County.

We are all concerned about the Northside Area. One more homeowner in the neighborhood helps solidify the Community. We feel this applicant and her family will be an asset to Sykes Street and the entire community. She has worked so very hard and diligently to make this dream a reality. We are making a request, on behalf of this family, that you grant an exception based on this family's long, historical connection with, former residency in and former employment in the Town of Chapel Hill. As a company committed to our mission to find affordable housing and "reclaim the power of our communities", EmPOWERment is ready and willing to work with the Town staff to assist in this process.