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Memo



To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
From: Russ Blackburn, City Manager
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2008
Subject: Workshop – Gainesville Police Department Campus Expansion

The City Commission recently heard the proposal to establish the public services zoning for the GPD Campus. During this discussion, several questions were raised regarding the alignment of the 6th Street Trail, parking, and placement of the building and retention areas on the property.

Subsequent to the City Commission's continuation of this item to a December meeting, representatives from the City Manager's Office and GPD held a workshop inviting surrounding neighbors to express their concerns and suggestions. Concerns expressed during the meeting include level of noise emanating from the air conditioning system of the proposed indoor firing range, trail alignment and fencing, location of the dry retention areas close to residential structures, and for some, a strong desire not to see GPD develop on the site. Based on the input from the neighborhood meeting, it is my belief that staff should continue to work with the engineer/architect to refine the site plan to address as many of the issues as possible prior to review again by the City Commission. Although the City Commission had requested staff provide a workshop on this item, I request that this item not be workshopped at this time. I do recommend that the City Commission continue with the rezoning request, which is scheduled to appear on a December City Commission agenda. The one modification that was proposed at the October 2, 2008 City Commission meeting, which staff did endorse, was that the zoning move forward without reference to a site plan. Once staff, the community, and the City Commission have agreed on an acceptable site plan, the site plan can be presented to the City Commission in a workshop format, and if appropriate, to the Plan Board and/or community members.

If I can provide additional information, please contact me.

RB/rs

Copy: Kurt Lannon, Clerk to the City Commission
Norman Botsford, Police Chief
Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager
Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager
Milton Reid, General Services Director