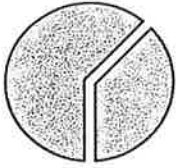


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**SKINNER &  
ASSOCIATES, INC.**

ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS & PLANNERS

352 378-4400

May 25, 2001

**City Commission  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601**

**Via Hand Delivery**

**Re: Slemmons Property**

Dear Commissioners:

On Thursday, May 24, 2001 at 12:30 p.m. I was present at a meeting with Mr. Ernie Ash representing the State of Florida Division of Forestry, Susan Slemmons owner of the large parcel between Bivens Arm Nature Park and the Kirkwood neighborhood, Ken Horst, Chris McCarter and Nick Kovacevick (home owners in Kirkwood). Mr. Ash and his assistant had just concluded a walk through of the Slemmons property looking for southern pine beetles.

**Mr. Ash advised Mrs. Slemmons that she should "clear cut her property" immediately south of the Kirkwood neighborhood.** Mrs. Slemmons said that she would think about it and **would proceed to do something soon.** The property is heavily forested with only about 15% pines and 85% hardwoods.

I have been appointed by the affected neighbors who own property adjacent to the Slemmons land and generally on Southwest 29<sup>th</sup> Place to contact the City of Gainesville in an effort to stop any clear cutting of this environmentally sensitive land. As far as I know, it is against the law to "clear cut" land within the City Limits of Gainesville. **I am requesting that a letter be sent to Mrs. Slemmons within 24 hours to notify her that she can not obtain permits to "clear cut" the land. Time is of the essence!** I have conveyed this information to City Planning and Zoning and the Arborist's office.

Lawrence Calderon, Chief of Current Planning called Mrs. Slemmons on Friday May 25, 2001 to inform her that her land is governed by the ordinances of the City of Gainesville, not the State Division of Forestry. She said that she did not want to clear cut the land, however, she felt that she was being very strongly urged by the State and County to cut the trees regardless of the collateral damage to hardwood trees. Mr. Calderon tried to assist her in understanding the city's requirements, but she insisted that she was being contacted by parties with different stories and did not know who to believe.

When I went to the Arborist's office I met with Sherrie Burch and Earlene Lerman I was told "at this point in time of the war against the beetles she (Mrs. Slemmons) would be well within her rights to hire a logger" by Sherrie Burch. She provided me a copy of City Code 30-254 as justification. I read the code and noted that the city manager is allowed to waive the requirements for tree removal permits **for the removal of damaged trees.** No where in the code is there reference to anyone being allowed to clear cut five (5) or more acres of land that has 15% to 20% pine trees, killing healthy hardwood trees in the process, **BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TOO EXPENSIVE TO REMOVE THE PINES BY USING A TREE SURGEON.** That is the reason given by the DOF representative, Don West when I questioned him. Mr.

Calderon insists that the code does not allow the wholesale removal (clear cutting) of trees within the City of Gainesville for any reason without a tree removal permit.

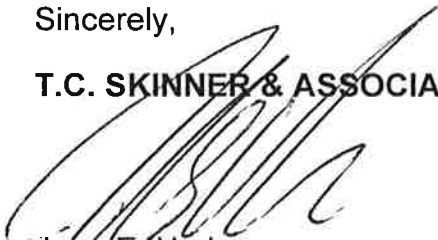
You may recall that the Kirkwood Environmental Improvement Association agreed to allow the development of Tivoli Apartments by Phil Emmer partly because we were convinced that the "dense tree canopy" between us and Emmer's land would obstruct any view and muffle objectionable noises from his three (3) story apartment complex. If this land is clear cut we will be looking straight at Emmer's apartments and listening to their "music". Now it is time for the City to protect us from what we feared could come to pass.

Mrs. Slemons is right! No one agrees on what is allowed and what is not allowed. Sherrie Burch and Earlene Lerman of the City Arborist's office have one story. City Planning and Zoning have another story. Don West and Ernie Ash of the Division of Forestry have yet another story. The Plan Board assured the residents of Kirkwood that this could NEVER happen in the City of Gainesville.

Please send a letter to Mrs. William Slemons III at 530 West Lakeview Street, Orlando Florida 32804 and / or call her at (407) 422-1003 stating that the clear cutting of this land will not be permitted by the City of Gainesville so that she will know who is in control and what is not allowed. The residents of Kirkwood stand behind the city in the quest for a better environment and support the cutting down of the infected pine trees. We do not support the removal of healthy hardwoods to get at the pines simply because it is cheaper to do it that way.

Sincerely,

**T.C. SKINNER & ASSOCIATES, INC.**



John E. Hudson  
Chairman