Community Meeting Summary Rezoning Petition Metrolina Speed and Sport Center

When: June 1, 2009 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. and 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (2 sessions)

Where: Oak Grove Methodist Church, 6440 Old Statesville Road

The meeting was noticed by delivery of letters to those in the Derita neighborhood per the schedule of addresses provided by the Planning Department. Neighborhood leader Bernie Samonds also emailed the notice out in his newsletter, The Derita Reporter, which reaches more than 3,000 people in the community. Two separate sessions were held in order to offer flexibility and better accommodate the residents varying schedules and availability.

The 6 p.m. session was led by Simon Weber, president of Speedway Investment Group and Wes Jones, president of ai Design Group, Inc. James Mitchell, Jr., City Councilman for District 2, arrived for, and helped lead, the 7 p.m. session. Posters displaying site plans of the proposed area to be rezoned and renderings of the facilities were available for review for all in attendance before and after each session. The meeting began with introductions of individuals to community members, followed by an overview of the entire rezoning site, detailed plans for the 40-acre parcel and a question-and-answer session. Approximately 75 people total attended both sessions and were all given the opportunity to ask questions.

A registry of the names of persons in attendance was taken at the door for both the 6 and 7 p.m. meetings, and is attached as Exhibit A. The majority of attendees were residents in the Derita neighborhood. The homeowners seemed interested in the presentation and the feedback and response from the presentation was mostly favorable.

Discussion was focused on the following issues: how development would impact noise in the surrounding neighborhoods; if there was a traffic study and how the project would impact every day and special event traffic; how late in the evening special events would run; the impact on property values; and how the project would impact crime in the area.

The majority of questions were centered on noise and traffic concerns. Jones, the architect on the project, explained to the audience that an extensive noise study was underway on the project by one of the nation's top motorsports acoustic consultants. Jones showed detailed, preliminary plans illustrating the effect of alternative means to mitigate the sound. Potential methods discussed included the use of berms, natural buffers, walls and structures. Mr. Weber assured the residents that efforts to mitigate the sound in the most efficient and effective manner would be a significant focus. The community members understood the plans and their concerns were alleviated, to some degree, after the questions were answered. In response to the questions regarding traffic, Weber explained that a traffic impact study had been completed and submitted to both CDOT and NCDOT and that the design team was awaiting the results. Weber said he would work diligently with both Departments of Transportation to determine the

necessary changes recommended; most community members were satisfied with his answer.

Residents were happy to hear that there would be five different entrances to the center to help mitigate traffic issues. Three mothers with young children spoke in support of the project because the center would create a place for children and families to spend time. A gentleman whose home sits adjacent to the Metrolina property, along Old Statesville Avenue said he had been approached several times recently by parties interested in purchasing his property. He said he was excited about the plans to revitalize the area, as he expects his property value to increase as a result.

Two women, who identified themselves as members of the High Park Neighborhood Association, asked why Weber chose the Metrolina property for his project. Weber explained that the Metrolina area had been skipped over during previous revitalizations and that he wanted to bring jobs and development to a place with a rich motorsports history that needed it.

A few residents asked questions regarding the construction schedule, phasing and funding of the facility. Weber and Mitchell explained the funding had restrictions and needed to be expedited for June 15 council hearing and vote. Weber explained that Phase One of the project (the track, grandstands and retail building) will be completed with private investor dollars and that Phase II (the mixed use tower building) would be built privately with the hope and expectation that some funding for the infrastructure changes mandated by CDOT/NCDOT would be forth coming. Community members reacted positively to this approach. Residents also said they were excited about the job creation that the facility would bring to the area.

Councilman Mitchell gave his contact e-mail and phone number and asked residents to contact him with any concerns about the project. Both Weber and Jones fielded all individual questions from residents at the end of each meeting. The group presented a similar presentation on Tuesday, June 2 at Councilman Mitchell's District 2 Town Hall meeting at East Stonewall AME Zion Church at 1729 Griers Grove Rd.

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