

February 20, 2008

Dear Property Owner,

As an on going effort to keep you well informed on the facts involving the establishment and passage of the Clarksville Center Redevelopment Plan Ordinance, I have enclosed a **timeline of the events** pertaining to the Redevelopment Plan for you to review. This information is also documented in *The Leaf-Chronicle* newspaper articles, e-mails of City staff, and other documents which cover the **the past three years**. As I was not Mayor, and most of the current sitting Council was not elected when the original plan was developed and presented to the City Council in a first reading, I feel it is important to recap events so that everyone who has a stake in the plan understands the facts which led up to the current sitting Council to adopt the Redevelopment Plan.

The Council and I have been made aware of several erroneous publications being circulated within the community by the Clarksville Property Rights Coalition. It is the job of government to be responsible and provide accurate and truthful information to the public. Both the Council and I are working diligently to provide factual information about this plan in a manner which addresses the concerns of the citizenry. The Clarksville City Council and myself are currently working on measures which will address the concerns that have caused anxiety about the Redevelopment Plan. At the last City Council meeting, several issues were identified for revisions to the Redevelopment Plan including: **addressing concerns about the term "blighted,"** re-looking at the size of the Redevelopment Plan, defining eminent domain, as well as other issues such as providing more public meetings. The City Council and I will hold several **public meetings in the near future** to listen to and hear other concerns about the plan before any action is taken. Unfortunately, some in our community have resorted to providing misinformation in an attempt to scare residents. It is **not the intention of the Council nor myself, nor anyone in the city government to take your homes to sell to developers through eminent domain as is being falsely reported by the Clarksville Property Rights Coalition.** Such false statements are meant to scare people and should not be tolerated in our community. The Redevelopment Plan is a plan that is aimed at making improvements in neighborhoods, not drive people out. Its purpose is to encourage people to invest in their property to make their overall neighborhoods better places to work and live as **has been very successful in many other cities in Tennessee.**

The City Council and myself have **pledged to work with citizens** to make any needed revisions in the Redevelopment Plan in order to end up with an ordinance which will benefit our city and make it a better place to live. A new ordinance is currently being drafted and will be available for the public to review in the near future.

We hope you will take part in the upcoming public hearing. We want your input and feedback on the new ordinance that will be proposed. With your participation, we will have a plan in place that is workable for all concerned. If you would like additional information about the Clarksville Center Redevelopment Plan, please visit the City of Clarksville web site at [www.cityofclarksville.com](http://www.cityofclarksville.com) or call my office at 645-7444.

Sincerely,

John E. Piper  
Mayor