

DURHAM



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NORTH CAROLINA



Date: January 24, 2013

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Steven L. Medlin, AICP, Planning Director *PO-1 for SLM*
Subject: New Hope Church

Mr. Greg Prospero, who is a neighbor of the New Hope Church and chief complainant regarding noise concerns at the church, has stated in his petition to appear before Council is "an update on the ongoing noise problems" at the church. As you know, the Durham Police Department is responsible for (and has been) enforcing the noise ordinance.

Mr. Prospero has also had ongoing correspondence with the Planning Department regarding the status of the church's minor special use permit (mSUP).

In summary, the facts regarding the New Hope Church mSUP are as follows:

- 1) New Hope Church needed a mSUP to establish a place of worship in a residential zoning district and they obtained that approval in 2008.
- 2) Sometime after this approval, the church installed an unauthorized gravel parking lot, unauthorized (and impermissible) parking spaces, an unauthorized storage shed on the site, and established an unauthorized preschool program.
- 3) Planning recently issued a notice of violation for these items (in #2 above), following a complaint regarding these improvements
- 4) Mr. Prospero has questioned why the Planning Department has not revoked the mSUP based on their unauthorized installation of a gravel parking lot at the site. The parking lot is not related to the noise issue.
- 5) The church is actively working to resolve these issues at this time, as so enforcement activities have been stayed for a specified time period (as is standard practice). If the church does NOT come into UDO compliance within the specified timelines, further enforcement action, up to and including revocation of the mSUP may be pursued.

Thank you and please advise Patrick Young of my staff with any questions or concerns.