



C H A T H A M C O U N T Y - S A V A N N A H  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

*"Planning the Future - Respecting the Past"*

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 2, 2009  
TO: MPC Board  
FROM: Thomas L. Thomson, Executive Director   
SUBJECT: Healthy Savannah

In May 2008, Mayor Otis Johnson called business, government, and health agencies together to address the issue of health in Chatham County. *Healthy Savannah* is a group of over sixty local agencies that are addressing the health of our community in four areas: environment, nutrition, physical activities, health disparities.

Many of the issues in these areas are also addressed in the Short-term Work Program of the Comprehensive Plan. The MPC has therefore supported and Healthy Savannah and has been actively involved in its programs. Conversely, Healthy Savannah supports many of the MPC initiatives and is prepared to actively support its initiatives.

One example of this growing relationship is the goal in the Comprehensive Plan to make schools year around centers of activity for neighborhoods. Healthy Savannah has received a grant to implement this concept in the proposed renovations to Beach High School by preparing a civic master plan for the campus. Healthy Savannah is also working with the School Board to include community bike trails and athletic fields in its new schools.

The MPC staff is working with the Woodville Neighborhood Association, the City of Savannah, Tompkins High School, and EPA's Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program to establish a community garden in Woodville. Participants in the CARE program are working with the MPC staff and Healthy Savannah to resolve conflicts between industrial and residential uses in the Hudson Hill neighborhood and to develop a land use and zoning plan that promotes health, physical activity, and economic development.

Diana Morrison, Chairman of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and Owner of Advertising Specialty Services, will be present to make a short presentation to the Board to review these collaborative efforts that are essential to the well-being of the community. Please call me at 651-1446 if you have any questions.

TLT/mg

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