

## Petition for an improved petition process

We want to thank Mayor Hemminger and Town Council for initiating a procedure to track petitions through the Chapel Hill town government. However, we request greater accountability by town staff and Council to make the public aware about what action is taken.

I, as well as others who have petitioned the Town Council, have been frustrated by the difficulties involved with getting follow-up information on accepted petitions. Although the Town website does list individual petitions and indicates which department is working on the petition, there is no way to find out where the petition is in the process. Many people send emails or call to inquire, but either they do not receive a response or are not given any updated information.

To ensure better transparency in the petitioning process, we would like to see the following occur:

- A monthly update sent **to the petitioner** via email that specifies what the department has done, what are the next steps, and the approximate time frame until action is taken.
- If the petitioner or someone else who is interested in the petition calls the department to inquire about the petition, an email response should be sent within 2 days from the date of inquiry, unless there are extenuating circumstances, to answer the question.

It is frustrating for concerned and motivated residents to petition their government and feel in the dark after their petition is accepted. It makes people feel that the town does not care. A more transparent process on petitions' status will help our residents be more engaged and will achieve greater transparency in town government.

Sincerely,

Renuka Soll, Chapel Hill resident and additional signers

Bill and Anne Brashear

Linda K Brown

Ellen Boylan

Michelle Cassell

Dick Chady

Daniel Dunn

Arthur and Deborah Finn

Vivian Foushee

David and Cheri Hardman

Tom Henkel

Charles Humble

Rob Johnson

Fred Lampe

Ken Larsen

Erika Lipkin

Julie McClintock  
Molly McConnell  
Amey Miller  
Susan Morance  
Michael Murphy  
David Schwartz  
Del Snow  
Terry and Bob Vance  
Diane Willis