

## ANNEXATION MEETING – MAY 5, 2008

Residents of the following neighborhoods: Stanstead, Saddle Run, Sunset Forest , Mill Ridge and Estates of Sunset Lake, met at the Sunset Lake Lodge Monday evening @7:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed hostile annexation of their properties by the Town of Fuquay-Varina. Upon arrival residents were given 2 handouts explaining the costs they would incur if the annexation is successful and recommended actions for individual homeowners who oppose the annexation. Also available was a petition opposing the annexation which they could sign.

Bob Padalino, vice-president of Sunset Lake Homeowners' Association (SSLHOA) called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. explaining the meeting's agenda.

Jack Knott, Treasurer of SSLHOA

Jack read the statement of opposition that Ed Walzer, president of SSLHOA, was presenting to the Fuquay-Varina town council meeting simultaneous to the opposition meeting. See attached.

Vinnie DeBenedetto, Council Member of Holly Springs and a resident of Sunset Lake Village

He reported that Holly Springs is opposed to forced annexation and does not have a policy of forced annexation. The elected officials in Holly Springs had no knowledge of this upcoming annexation and did not know where the story originated that Fuquay-Varina is being forced to annex this area before Holly Springs could annex the area.

Carl Dean, Town Manager of Holly Springs

He reported that Holly Springs has only had one forced annexation in the last 10 years due to failed wells and septic systems. In 1998-1999, an annexation agreement was drawn up between the two towns which expires in July of 2009. Nobody in Holly Springs spoke with the Town of Fuquay officials regarding this proposed annexation. The question which remains unanswered is whether the Town of FV is annexing to provide revenue for future projects. Holly Springs has a policy to only annex areas where homes have not been built while the land development is occurring. This way the representation to the end buyer is accurate. Holly Springs is in favor of the annexation agreement being renegotiated when it expires in July, 2009. The Town of HS has a policy where residents who want to speak at town hall meetings are permitted three minutes at the beginning of the meeting; whereas, FV will only permit residents to speak at the end of the town meetings. Carl wrote a letter to Andy Hettrick, town manager of FV, stating his concerns about the untruthfulness of the Independent article; but Mr. Hettrick has not responded.

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Dick Sears, Mayor of Holly Springs

Dick confirmed that the article in the FV Independent was incorrect and that the Town of HS had no plans to forcefully annex the proposed annexation areas as the Town of FV reported. The Town of HS has a policy to only due voluntary annexations in existing neighborhoods. The mayor was asked if he would be willing to have a meeting with the Town of FV to discuss this issue and he responded favorably.

Nelson Dollar, District 36 Representative and member of the House Select Committee on Municipal Annexation

The proposed annexation area is actually in the district represented by Paul Stamm, but since he was unable to attend, Nelson Dollar agreed to come to the meeting. Nelson Dollar is the author of a bill to be presented to the Assembly of NC next week which would put a moratorium on involuntary annexation for at least one year so that the House Select Committee on Municipal Annexation, authorized by the speaker of the house to research this issue, would have time to work and define laws to govern annexations. The key issue is fairness. The bill proposes to stop all annexations to date that have not been finalized wherever they are in the process. North Carolina is one of only four states where citizens have no voice in the involuntary annexations. The law that was put in place in the 1950's was never intended for the purpose that it is being used for today. NC citizens have no rights as the law stands today. The committee has bipartisan support and two of the members were former town mayors with experience on this issue. He feels that it will be an uphill battle to get this bill passed and he urged everybody to email members of the NC General Assembly and the Speaker of the House. The bill number should be available next week.

Catherine A. Heath, President/Webmaster of StopNCAnnexation Coalition

Cathy started the website [www.stopncannexation.com](http://www.stopncannexation.com) in 2003 after her experiences in Dutchman Downs. The 1950's law referred to by Nelson Dollar is an antiquated law that was put in place to help residents without running water or septic systems. Even though the annexation will cost the Town of Fuquay-Varina millions of dollars to run sewer and water lines it is the policy of most towns to grab revenue now and pay later with no regard to the residents affected. NC League of General Municipality Lobbyists' collect dues based on the number of residents in the cities; therefore they push for annexations and encourage cities to grow. They are a tough lobby to fight. She gave the following suggestions:

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1. Support Moratorium
2. Pressure FV Officials – 10 people sign up for public comment at the next meeting, **May 20, 2008**, and speak with respect.
3. Hire an attorney
4. Don't tell the town where their feasibility plan is incorrect. Judges can only rule on procedures, not fairness because of the current laws.
5. Within 5 days of the public hearing, **June 18, 2008**, complete the application for every resident involved to have the water and sewer lines run to the house hookup. By law the town is only required to bring the lines to the edge of the neighborhood unless this application is completed with the 5-day timeframe.

Kristen Padalino, resident of Sunset Lake Estates

Kristine was the final speaker and she urged people to read the handouts informing them of the costs associated with this hostile annexation and suggested everybody get involved to fight it.

Bob Padalino closed the meeting asking for a show of support which was unanimous and all agreed to have an attorney read the documents for \$1,000.