

Dear Commissioners of Fuquay-Varina,

My name is Robert Padalino and I am heading up the Coalition Against Forced Annexation by Fuquay-Varina. The mission of our organization is two fold. It is to educate all citizens as to the ramifications of this forced seizure and pool resources to protect our rights in opposition. We do not sanction abuse or unreasonable threats. We have implored our group repeatedly to be productive, professional, and factual in our efforts. At a very early stage in this process we are extremely organized. We have a website that provides accurate information and resources to the public regarding this situation. We have also retained an attorney that specializes in this field to help us protect our rights. Our group also possesses citizens that are Attorneys, Civil Engineers, Developers, and Financial Auditors. All of these people are reviewing this plan for annexation and are finding numerous flaws and promises that we feel cannot be kept. For example, after a question posed last Tuesday at the public meeting, it was determined that Fuquay-Varina will now need to build a fire house within two years instead of in the future when the tax base can pay for it. If this does not happen, those of us who are now serviced by the closer Holly Springs Fire Department will be in jeopardy of being dropped by our homeowners insurance companies. We strongly request that as elected officials you continue to ask questions and review this plan. You are encouraged to also visit our website at [www.stopfuquayannexation.com](http://www.stopfuquayannexation.com).

This evening, I will be presenting to you a petition by the people protesting this annexation. It now contains over 500 signatures and is growing every day. This number is almost equal to the number of homes you are looking to annex. When people sign this document and include their email address, it automatically registers them to our coalition and our communication network. In all of the states in this country except four including North Carolina, forced annexations are either illegal or can be overturned by a 60% petition. This gives citizens a voice and a choice. Yesterday the house select committee on municipal annexations affirmed by majority vote to present a bill for a one year moratorium on forced annexations. Our coalition will be active in getting them to revise these 50 year old laws that no longer serve and protect the rights of North Carolina citizens. As an example of how outdated they are, they were written at a time when this state still had laws that allowed segregation!

Some one asked me the other day why I am going to all of this effort in leading this coalition. This person said Bob, "it is only money". My answer was simple. This annexation will lead to major economic hardship for people of all walks of life and someone has to stand up. I am now asking our elected officials to do the same at this time of great economic uncertainty. What keeps me going are the stories I hear from terrified people on fixed incomes like single mothers, retired people, and widows asking me if we actually have a chance of being heard. We are all angry and frustrated that we are caught in the middle of a battle between two towns that have not properly communicated with each other. This evening we are asking the elected officials and town employees to come to the table with Holly Springs and negotiate an agreement that serves everyone. If this does not happen and this involuntary annexation passes, everyone loses.

Please vote no to this forced annexation.