

FOR RELEASE: May 22, 2007  
ALLIANCE TO IMPROVE EMORY VILLAGE

## DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSION GIVES UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO EMORY VILLAGE OVERLAY DISTRICT

The DeKalb County Commission unanimously approved a zoning overlay plan supported by the Alliance to Improve Emory Village, and improved by negotiations with the Druid Hills Civic Association and other interested neighbors.

After about forty five minutes of discussion, approval of the plan was moved by Commissioner Jeff Rader, seconded by Kathie Gannon, and unanimously supported by the entire commission.

The decision ends a seven year process of planning for change, and begins the hard work of putting the plans into action.

DeKalb County's traffic engineers plan to begin in late summer or early fall with roundabout construction.

"Now we roll up our sleeves, raise more money for the best fountain, pavers and trees in the Village piazza, and start to enjoy what our changes are meaning," says Alliance member Mark Goldman. He and his wife Marlene, also on the Board of the Alliance, live half a block from the Village.

"This will make Emory Village a model for the county and the metropolitan region," says AIEV leader Davis Fox, a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission. "It opens the door for new housing and shopping opportunities for Druid Hills, and for people who work near the Clifton Corridor, the largest jobs center in DeKalb County."

Three million dollars in grants from the Atlanta Regional Commission's Livable Centers Initiative helped DeKalb County planners and the alliance of neighbors, businesses and Emory University leaders develop a winning combination of proposals to bring the Village back to life. Seven years of often contentious public meetings and planning sessions produced the plans which won final approval Tuesday.

Community conversations about density and height restrictions led to negotiations among residential neighbors, the Druid Hills Golf Club, and several different groups within the Druid Hills Civic Association. The

talks, some led by DeKalb Commissioners Kathie Gannon and Jeff Rader, yielded important compromises reducing the four story portions to be allowed in the Village to three stories across from Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, and other reductions in the scale of the changes proposed.

"This process is neighborhood involvement at its best," says AIEV leader Lois Berthaume, a 27 year resident of Druid Hills. "We have listened to each other, shared information, and tried to appreciate all the viewpoints people have about a very important piece of our community. The delays sought by some in the Civic Association meant a better document for all of us, and now it's time to move forward."

The changes include plans for a Parking Management Plan, removal of asphalt parking lots along the edge of Peavine Creek, and significant numbers of trees and open spaces in the heart of the Village.

Supporting the plan are some of Atlanta's most active voices in urban revitalization, including Trees Atlanta and PEDS, the Pedestrian Advocacy Group.

For more information, see our website at [www.emoryvillage.org](http://www.emoryvillage.org) or phone AIEV board member Sally Sears at 404-378-0818.