

Guide to Supplemental Neighborhood Notification Initiative Presentations

Following completion of the Master of Arts degree in Geography at Georgia State University in May 2012, Carol Brown was accepted into the University of West Georgia's Master of Urban and Regional Planning program in the fall of 2012. As part of the program requirement for a Capstone project and as a logical continuation of her Thesis research and community activism, she initiated a series of Stakeholder meetings in Cobb County to discuss adoption of a neighborhood governance structure. This was ultimately modeled on Athens-Clarke County's Neighborhood Notification Initiative program which is an information model that allows neighborhoods to register with the county and receive targeted planning and zoning updates. It is designed to increase awareness of these issues by making access easily available and it is meant to facilitate increased citizen participation.

The Stakeholder meetings consisted of presentations to County Commissioners and Planning Commissioners, Community Development managers and civic group leadership. The meetings began in September 2012 and concluded in May 2013. Brown made a Work Session presentation to the Board of Commissioners in June 2013, the first of its type by a citizen who was not employed by local government. In August 2013 Community Development responded in a presentation to the BoC with a cost and program analysis of Brown's NNI proposal. Brown was then encouraged to respond to the Staff analysis by the Board of Commissioners.

On October 31st, then-Community Development Director Rob Hosack emailed Brown to tell her that while the NNI (to create a neighborhood registry) would not be adopted, the county would initiate a protocol allowing all residents to sign up to receive electronic notification when zoning and variance information was updated on the county zoning analysis page. The information can then be downloaded in PDF format.

In December 2015, two years after the zoning alert program was implemented, 1,500 residents had signed up to receive zoning notification from Cobb County government.

Carol Brown was awarded a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from UWG in July 2014.

PDF 1 NeighborhoodNotificationProposalforCobb2012 - An overview and narrative of the Stakeholder process

PDF 2 NNIproposalforCobb062313presentationtoBoC – The PowerPoint presentation given by Brown to the Cobb County Board of Commissioners on June 23, 2013 at a televised work session.

PDF 2a NNI Presentation notes062313 – Notes used with the June 23 Presentation

PDF 3 8.23.2013_Memo ComDev Analysis of NNI cost – Presentation given by Planning Division Manager Dana Johnson in response to the NNI proposal, August 23, 2013

PDF 4 Response to PlanningDiv Analysis on NNI – Brown responds to the Planning Manager's NNI Analysis

JPEG 5 CobbCountyhomepageNov4 Screenshot of Cobb County's web page November 4, 2013 which announced implementation of the zoning notification sign up program.