

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'We can't afford not to build a mixed-use, medium-density New Urbanist downtown'

Editor:

Attention Temple Terrace!

This month is crucial for our Downtown Redevelopment as City Council will decide the type of downtown we'll have, and who our developer will be.

They are well-intended, but some on City Council advocate watering down the project to be either a renovation (a coat of paint) of the existing strip mall; a half-baked new strip mall that doesn't revitalize; or just selling our downtown land to a developer to build what he pleases, shortsighted options all.

Honestly, we can't afford not to build a mixed-use, medium-density New Urbanist downtown; the future well being of our city is at stake.

Building additional low density in our downtown (like we already have that isn't working) won't "raise the bar" for Temple Terrace, won't maximize our Tax Increment Financing (TIF) county revenues, and won't accomplish why we're redeveloping in the first place - that is, to spark the revitalization energy to begin our city's rejuvenation, as other Florida cities are doing. We need a medium-density downtown to maintain our city's future revenue, or be faced with a

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bleak future of continued land annexation. Do we really want our small town obliged to continually annex (consider our blighted adjacent areas) merely to preserve our current service level?

Sweetbay? Either they play ball or we leave them "as is" and build around them.

Many citizens are waiting to remodel their homes, or even decide if they'll relocate based on what happens with the Redevelopment. Please join us in encourag-

ing City Council to build our long-awaited mixed-use, medium density New Urbanist downtown; it is the best way to insure a future healthy Temple Terrace!

In community spirit,

Grant Rimbey

Temple Terrace

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