

# Temple Terrace Has Time To Regroup

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Backers of an ambitious plan to build a new downtown for Temple Terrace should view Tuesday's defeat of a property tax referendum not as the end of redevelopment efforts, but as a chance to make a visionary plan more workable.

Property owners had a difficult time deciding whether to financially back a project still in its infancy. The withdrawal of two of the proposed developers, which left the city with just one, rightfully caused concerns.

Temple Terrace Mayor Joe Affronti should not waver from the city's goal of building a New Urbanism-style downtown at 56th Street and Bullard Parkway, where a blighted strip shopping center now stands. The city needs some version of this project to boost its economic prospects and to keep urban decay from spreading.

What is important now is for the city to go back to the drawing board and come back with a plan more palatable to the two entities that will make this work: voters and developers. It might be a project smaller in scope or with adjusted elements, but it is far from a lost cause.

Chin up, Mayor Affronti. Time for round two.