

**A COPY OF AN EMAIL I RECEIVED TODAY:**

Honorable Mayor Harold Perrin and Honorable Jonesboro City Council Members:

My wife and I just found out about a topic, the “Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area Designation for the North Jonesboro Neighborhood Initiative,” that we understand will be on the agenda for the City Council meeting tonight, December 4, 2012.

We hereby request that you VOTE “NO” on the NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION STRATEGY AREA DESIGNATION FOR THE NORTH JONESBORO NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE.

OR, If you should choose not to VOTE “NO,” then we hereby request that you delay the vote on that topic until you have had the hearings on the Jonesboro Vision 2030 draft that should be available after the first of the year 2013. THERE IS NO CRITICAL NEED TO IMPLEMENT THAT INITIATIVE UNTIL ITS EFFECTS ARE FULLY UNDERSTOOD, NOT ONLY BY JONESBORO’S MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL, BUT JONESBORO’S CITIZENS AS WELL.

That ‘initiative’ appears to us to be a part of the United Nations’ diabolical AGENDA 21 attempted to be secretly implemented all across the United States. Agenda 21 and therefore any governmental action that may seek to secretly implement it are not in the best interest of the City of Jonesboro or its citizens, including citizens in the Jonesboro surrounding areas. Once they find out about it, and they are finding out about it, the citizens of Jonesboro and the surrounding areas are going to be very angry that our City Council voted for an initiative the full and complete effects of which they do not understand, the effects of which would be to implement any part of United Nations’ Agenda 21.

We are telling you that we will be angry if any of Agenda 21 is implemented for the City of Jonesboro. Agenda 21 has no place in our nation or in our society. You MUST seek to fully educate yourself on Agenda 21 and its sinister objectives before you vote for any topic that could be construed to implement any part of it.

Again we hereby request that you VOTE “NO” on the NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION STRATEGY AREA DESIGNATION FOR THE NORTH JONESBORO NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE OR vote to delay the vote on that topic until you have had the hearings on the Jonesboro Vision 2030 draft that should be available after the first of the year 2013.

Respectfully yours,

## **MY RESPONSE:**

1. The vote tonight on Res 12:216 is not to vote for/against the initiative – the NJNI already IS and HAS BEEN.
2. The vote tonight is to **ADD the NRSA (Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area) status to the FY 2012-2016 CDBG Consolidated Plan** so that the funding that we get for the NJNI has FEWER restrictions. For example, as it is now, the initiative can only be funded as a public service – Since we are only allowed to use 15% of our total CDBG funds toward public service projects (which comes to about \$70K/year and we have MULTIPLE agencies to fund out of this \$70K/year, this really limits the AMOUNT that can go toward the NJNI public service – which in 2013 will be \$37,500.
3. **NRSA Defined by HUD:** “the Federal Register published on January 5, 1995 authorized entitlement grantees to develop comprehensive approaches to address economic development and housing needs in a designated neighborhood within their community. This approach is referred to as a NRSA.”

*Eligibility requirements are as follows:*

- a. The selected area MUST be primarily residential,
- b. The area MUST contain a high percentage of LMI (low to moderate income) households,
- c. The percentage of LMI residents within the neighborhood MUST be equal to:
  - i. 70% of the total population in the selected area,
  - ii. The upper quartile percentage
  - iii. 51% of the total population.

*Benefits for a NRSA are as follows:*

- d. Communities with approved NRSA's are offered enhanced flexibility in undertaking economic development, housing, and public service activities with their CDBG funds,
  - e. This flexibility is designed to promote innovative programs in economically disadvantaged areas of the community,
    - i. Areas of enhanced regulatory flexibility includes but is not limited to job creation or retention effort focused on the selected neighborhood may be classified as meeting the LMI area benefit national objective requirements
4. **Our NRSA status has already been submitted and approved by HUD (see letter).**
  5. With the NRSA status, once the NJNI initiative applies for its 501 (c) 3 status and becomes a separate entity from the City (which will happen in the next 12 to 18 months), the NJNI can then be a CBDO – Community Based Development Organization. CBDO's are NOT limited on the amount of CDBG funds that they can receive.
  6. **The NJNI is NOT an Agenda 21 project** – it is a “place-based change initiative that is citizen-driven,” and its mission is “*to encourage two way communications between neighbors, residents, stakeholders, and officials to participate in the decision making process to enhance safety, strengthen families, and transform neighborhoods through involvement and engagement.*” Its vision is “*collaborative community change strategies where engaged residents, local businesses, faith communities, social service providers and funders work together to build vibrant neighborhoods, foster community cohesion, and build a strong infrastructure of services and supports for families.*”

7. The NJNI has **NOT** been implemented in “secret” as it has been suggested. This initiative has been in the Jonesboro Sun **NUMEROUS** times, it has been in front of council a minimum of **6** times because we have had council’s approval to apply for 6 grants for this initiative (one of which was for the FY 2012 CDBG Action Plan), AND the **NJNI 2012 Strategic Plan is published on the City of Jonesboro’s website that can be viewed at ANY time by ANY citizen.**



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November 29, 2012

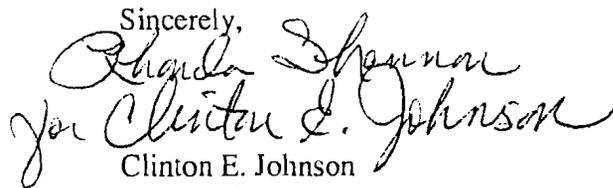
Honorable Harold Perrin  
Mayor, City of Jonesboro  
City of Jonesboro  
P. O. Box 1845  
Jonesboro, AR 72403

Dear Mayor Perrin:

We received your recent letter requesting approval of the City's proposal to designate North Jonesboro as a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA). As the City has provided the required information for approval of the NRSA, including planning areas, demographic characteristics, the planning process, the neighborhood assessment, a strategic plan, and related performance measures, HUD has approved your request for designation of North Jonesboro as an NRSA. The City must amend its current Consolidated Plan to include North Jonesboro as an NRSA.

Additionally, as the City does not currently have a Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) in place to carry out NRSA activities, such activities must be categorized as public service activities which are limited to 15 percent of the City's CDBG allocation for the year in which such activities are undertaken. HUD is available to provide technical assistance regarding NRSA activities whenever such assistance may be needed.

Thank you for your continued interest in HUD's Programs. If you should have questions regarding this guidance, please feel free to contact me on (501) 918-5739, or Chandra Taylor, Community Planning and Development Representative, on (501) 918-5737.

Sincerely,  
  
Clinton E. Johnson  
Acting Director, Community  
Planning and Development

cc:  
Ms. Heather Clements  
Ms. Ann Barre