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UCF

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FACILITIES PLANNING

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Mr. Davis,

I have been reading for months now of the concerns a few nearby residents have regarding the proposed UCF stadium for football. Enclosed are my comments for the November 9, 2005 hearing on the adaptation of an amendment to the University of Central Florida 2005-2015 Campus Master Plan. My opinion is that these concerns are at best a stall tactic for a project that is in my opinion well overdue and a great improvement to the UCF campus and student life there. All the concerns voiced by the resident groups in the Twin River, Carillon, and The Sanctuary neighborhoods are weak attempts to delay the UCF stadium's construction. As any business person will tell you, time is money and in talking with Steve Orsini the stadium project may cost another 10% (or more) by the time a contract is penned.

The arguments as I understand them are home values as related to traffic, noise, lighting, environment, and rowdy behavior due to the stadium location.

First let me say that any home owner that purchased a home in the University Blvd. and Alafaya Trail corridors and did not realize that there was a major state university was in their backyard must still believe in the tooth fairy and Santa Claus. The University of Central Florida existed well before all the communities sprung up from the forest land surrounding its campus. If one knew that the University of Central Florida was located in the immediate areas of their homes then I would assume that the homeowner would accept by proxy all that comes with living by a center of higher education, i.e. traffic congestion and young adults.

In regards to the perceived traffic problems. On any given day of the week there are approximately 40+ thousand students on the campus of the University of Central Florida. Some of those students live in the campus dorms but the vast majority of the students commute to the campus. I would say it is a safe bet that of those students that commute on a daily basis during the week that number would be less during a football game that is played on a Saturday maybe 5 or 6 times during the fall semester. And of those students that commute to a football game how many would come travel on Alafaya Trail, Lockwood Blvd., or McCulloch Road? Traffic could be diverted and rerouted through the UCF campus to any number of roads offering ingress and egress to UCF other than the McCulloch Road entrance thus avoiding congestion on that road and Lockwood Blvd.

Noise and lighting may not be able to completely avoid but games could be scheduled at an hour were both would be a reduced inconvenience for the nearby residents.

I understand the St. John's Water Management District has determined there is no environmental impact from the proposed stadium.

The NCAA rules do not allow alcohol sales on campus during sporting events. I have attended UCF football games at the Citrus Bowl for many years and I can attest to the

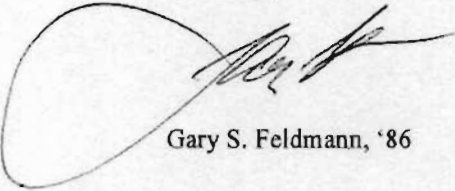
events as being well behaved. People wanting to use Officer Mario Jenkins tragic death as an example of the kinds of bad things that can occur with alcohol consumption do him an injustice for I believe Officer Jenkins was put in harms way just by the design flaws in the operation he was involved in. Let's not forget he was gunned down by an OPD officer whom I will assume had not been drinking alcohol but made an error in judgment none-the-less based on Officer Jenkins's actions. Since alcohol sales will not be allowed at the UCF football stadium it may be possible to make an argument that the football events would become a sobering event but those thoughts might be unrealistic as some young adults and football affectionatos will consume alcoholic beverages on game day.

Finally, to build a football stadium in any other location other than the sports complex on the north side of the campus is ludicrous if one considers the proximity of the proposed football stadium to the other sports related resources. I suppose the football stadium could be built on campus in any location, but at what costs to the athletes and the football program not to mention the added expense to build the football stadium.

By all means, ***BUILD THE UCF FOOTBALL PROGRAM A STADIUM!*** Although I do not live near the UCF campus my perception as to the inconveniences caused by the proposed stadium to the nearby residents are negligible.

Furthermore, I propose that if the UCF football stadium is built it be dedicated to the memory of Officer Mario Jenkins so that UCF football fans never forget a dedicated UCF police officer gave his life so that UCF football fans could enjoy their sport safely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary S. Feldmann', with a large, sweeping flourish that loops back to the left.

Gary S. Feldmann, '86