



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### Conversation about Mixed Use District in Bearden Continues

**Knoxville, Tennessee – July 22, 2016** – On Thursday, July 28, staff from the Metropolitan Planning Commission will be at the Panera Bread at 4485 Kingston Pike from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. to discuss, receive comments on, and answer questions regarding the proposed Bearden Mixed Use District standards. Staff is encouraging interested residents, property owners, and business owners to drop by this community event. Refreshments will be provided to those who attend.

"We want community members to have an opportunity to speak with us one-on-one in a more casual environment. This is a great opportunity for anyone who has questions to come by and for us to get a good sense of any concerns from the community," said Mike Reynolds, Senior Planner with the MPC.

MPC has received feedback from the community from two public meetings held earlier this summer and wants participation to continue throughout the planning process.

The original Bearden Village Opportunities Plan was developed in 2001 with extensive public input, which helped shape the vision for the future. The goals for the "urban village" plan are to enhance pedestrian activity and access, enhance sense of place and community, and build upon Bearden's urban character and unique atmosphere.

To realize this concept, MPC is proposing new Mixed Use District zones. The purpose and intent of the proposed Mixed Use zoning is to:

- Provide appropriate areas for mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development
- Group and link places used for living, working, shopping, educating, and recreating to reduce vehicle trips, relieve traffic congestion, and improve the overall quality of life
- Provide a variety of residential housing types and densities
- Integrate new mixed-use development with its surroundings

The current draft of the proposed Mixed Use District zoning, additional information, and a mapping tool that compares the proposed zoning and height maximums with current standards are all available online at <http://www.knoxmpc.org/mixed-use/bearden>.

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#### Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) was established in 1956 by Knoxville and Knox County as the agency responsible for comprehensive county-wide planning and administration of zoning and land subdivision regulations and remains so today (except for the town of Farragut). Funding for MPC activities comes primarily from city and county appropriations and from federal grants for specific studies. The Commission prepares and adopts a general plan, reviews subdivision regulations and site plans, prepares and recommends zoning ordinances and maps to the Knox County Commission and Knoxville City Council, reviews proposed zoning amendments, and prepares a capital improvements plan for the City of Knoxville. For more information, visit our website: [www.knoxmpc.org](http://www.knoxmpc.org)