

To the members of the Bryan City Council:

B/CS Habitat for Humanity would like to make public its support of the Midtown Area Plan and urges you to approve the plan as recommended at your May 12th Meeting. Our main office is within the Midtown area, and we have built several Habitat homes in Midtown over the years, so we do have a physical interest in what happens within this important part of Bryan.

After conversations with Ms. Hackett and other City staff, we feel that this plan is a good first step in the right direction, that of increasing land development flexibility while doing so in a responsible manner.

We support streamlining the development process and making land use more flexible because we believe it increases available housing in Bryan. The more housing a city is able to build (preferably through developers, not the government), the better off that community becomes, and the more affordable housing generally becomes. If the Midtown Area Plan has the potential to create more housing, we are for it.

We also support the concept of complete, walkable neighborhoods with access to necessities within one's own neighborhood. The Midtown plan, as described, would allow for mixed commercial/residential space within certain neighborhoods, something that would greatly benefit the citizens living in Midtown, especially if it includes grocery stores, etc. We believe cities become far stronger and more sustainable when neighborhood residents do not have to drive to purchase what they need to survive. This plan could make this area much stronger than it is at this time.

B/CS Habitat for Humanity will continue to work towards a future where everyone in Bryan has a decent, affordable place to call home and we feel that, through initiatives like the Midtown Plan that will expand housing opportunities in Bryan, the City has a strong chance of achieving this goal.

We look forward to seeing how the Midtown Area Plan develops in the future and ask that you approve this plan on May 12th. Thank you.

Charles Coats, Director of Homebuyer Services
Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity