

**ATTACHMENT 2:
ATN COMMENTS AT THE JANUARY 2021 CITY COMMISSION RETREAT**

The mission of the Association of Tallahassee Neighborhoods is to advocate for policies and initiatives that protect and enhance Tallahassee and its neighborhoods. We thank the Commission for making the Southern Strategy a priority for 2021 as this is an excellent opportunity to reinvigorate southside neighborhoods.

ATN's guiding principles include advocating for early and on-going staff-resident-elected official engagement through open and transparent governmental processes. Unfortunately, there have been notable instances in which the public was not involved early in planning activities and where important data and analysis was not available to the public or elected officials in a timely way. The Southern Strategy evaluation provides an opportunity to make changes to past practices.

ATN recommends that the following strategies be incorporated into the process proposed by staff:

- **Direct staff to provide more analysis based on the Comprehensive Plan objectives and policies at the March 2021 workshop.** For example, Future Land Use Policy 11.1.2 states: *Long term housing policy shall focus on increasing the amount of moderate and upper income housing in the area as a proportion of total housing stock. Strategies shall include, but need not be limited to, improving public infrastructure, improving public safety, and encouraging increased employment opportunities in the Southern Strategy Area.* Future Land Use Policy 11.2.4 states: *By 2002, develop and implement a program which is intended to establish incentives for construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of housing in the Southern Strategy Area. This program may include, but need not be limited to incentives such as the allocation of funding for and implementation of water and sewer rebates for construction costs (on site and off site), payment of utilities connection fees, and systems charges.*

This analysis would confirm to the public that the government is aware of past efforts and has conducted a thorough evaluation of the degree of success of these efforts.

- **Commit to conducting workshops on significant policy issues prior to staff presentation of draft recommendations.** It is important for the public to understand the perspective of our elected leaders. It is equally important for the Commission to understand the concerns of the public. Examples of important policy discussions for the commission include options for potential changes of land use in neighborhoods and public infrastructure options that will directly benefit southside neighborhoods and residents.

ATN appreciates the Commission's consideration of these recommendations and thanks the Commission again for undertaking this important work.