

Joe P. Ballcap

Goldsboro, NC 2753X
(919) XXX-XXXX

September XX, 2011

Chris Herren, Chief, Voting Session
U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division
Room 7253 – NWB
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Voting Section, NWB
Washington, DC 20530

Re: City of Goldsboro Deannexation Referendum Mandated by North Carolina Session Law 2011-177 (DOJ File # 2011-3117)

Dear Mr. Herren:

As a resident of the City of Goldsboro, I am writing to express my concern over the North Carolina Session Law 2011-177 and how it applies to my city. I understand that under this legislation, the residents of the city's Phase XI annexation area will be allowed to essentially remove themselves from the city. I am concerned about the possible repercussions of such an allowance and the potential domino effect it could create in the city.

I have followed this annexation through the local media for quite a number of years now. I understand that the residents of that area opposed the annexation which resulted in lawsuits but eventual success by and official incorporation into the City occurred in 2008. Since 2008, those citizens have received city services just as I have. I also understand that the city started investing significant funds in infrastructure and other improvements into that area, operating under the certainly appropriate assumption that property taxes and services fees associated with those properties would contribute to the funding of those improvements.

My concern is that to allow those residents to petition to remove themselves will essentially result in the burden of the cost of the city's investments being placed on the shoulders of the remaining Goldsboro citizens. I also have huge concerns about the legislature's ability to change a law retroactively by as much as three years. Does this mean they would be allowed to change the speed limit on our state highways effective three years ago and then send me citations for the countless times I drove the speed limit legally in effect at the time? Lastly, if Phase XI residents are permitted this opportunity, what is to prevent annexations from even further back in the city's history to request an equal opportunity to do so? The effects of such would certainly be devastating to this city.

The residents of Phase XI are not occasional visitors to the City of Goldsboro. On a very frequent and routine basis, they drive on the streets, visit the parks, and benefit from public safety, just like the rest of us. Like it or not, they should be expected to pay their fair share and should not be allowed to, three years after the fact, undo what was legally done, leaving the rest of the citizens holding the bag. I appreciate your consideration in this matter and request that you deny this petition from being able to occur due to the unequal treatment it would permit among our citizens.

Most sincerely,

Joe P. Ballcap
Citizen
City of Goldsboro