



Downtown Decatur Neighbors

April 6, 2015

Amanda Thompson
Planning Director
City of Decatur
509 North McDonough Street
Decatur, GA 30030

Dear Ms. Thompson:

I write on behalf of the Board of the Downtown Decatur Neighbors to express our strong support for the City of Decatur's Special Pedestrian Area Regulations and our strong opposition to Redstone Investment's request for an exemption to these regulations for its 315 West Ponce development.

More than thirty years ago, Decatur had the foresight to create its visionary Town Center Plan. Long before smart growth and new urbanism became planning buzzwords, Decatur began pursuing innovative strategies to maintain and strengthen its urban core. The City has consistently reinforced this effort, with the goal of managing growth while retaining character highlighting its strategic plan.

Thanks to the vision and success of Decatur's leaders, developers now clamor to invest in downtown Decatur. Fortunately, the city has begun to adopt regulations that will protect downtown's residents and promote pedestrian safety in and around our homes. Its innovative Special Pedestrian Area Regulations codify these values and policies. As the City's Special Pedestrian Area Regulations declare, a drive-through is contrary to our and the City's vision for Downtown Decatur.

Any exception to the Special Pedestrian Area Regulations undermines the City's innovative work, increases pedestrian-vehicular traffic and threatens pedestrian safety. Granting Redstone Investment's exemption request would result in dozens of additional pedestrian-vehicle conflicts in our community. We urge you to reject this and all other proposals to create new drive-through facilities in one of Georgia's most pedestrian friendly cities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Dusenbury".

George Dusenbury
President