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Press Release

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Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association (FMIA):
Statement concerning the City's response to FMIA's Petition for Declaratory Relief and Permanent Injunction.

On June 18th the City responded to the FMIA's petition. FMIA challenges both the procedure the city used to pass the new CZO, as well as the substance of the new CZO, which is contrary to the Master Plan.

FMIA's first challenge concerns the last-minute amendments. The City is required by law to submit all amendments to the Planning Commission for that Commission's formal, specialized review and recommendation. The Planning Commission, in turn, is charged with seeking the input of residents. In fact, the Mayor's spokesman Brad Howard recently (6-4-15) stated, on the subject of Historic Districts, that "We want residents to weigh in because they know their neighborhoods best and should have an active, influential role in important decisions like this."

If that is truly the position of the City, then why did the City pull the most controversial amendments *out* of the public and Planning Commission review process? Simply put, the City was not interested in letting the public weigh in on the City's controversial plans.

The second challenge of the FMIA petition speaks to the Master Plan and its "Force of Law," which was presented, approved, and voted into the Home Rule Charter by referendum, as the best solution for future planning, which includes preserving the scale, density, and character of Historic Neighborhoods. The new CZO is in conflict with the Master Plan, and this is not permitted under the law.