

PLANNING & ZONING REVIEW NOTES

SUBJECT: Proposed amendment to the Chatham County Communications Tower Ordinance Article 3-2 to allow towers up to 300 feet in areas #2 and #3 when a public benefit is substantiated.

ATTACHMENTS: None

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND: The Chatham County Office of Emergency Operations has received a grant from the Office of Homeland Security to improve emergency communications. The County received approval for a communications tower in the vicinity of Harpers Crossroads in the southwest portion of the County during the approval of the General 2005 Communications Tower Plan. A public hearing will be held on the specific site on July 18. To provide the most coverage the County is requesting a revision to the County Communications Tower Ordinance to allow towers of 300 feet when a public benefit is shown.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS: The proposal is to amend Article 3-2 by adding a sentence and separate paragraph to item 1. following the text about Area #3 that would read as follows: "Towers may be allowed in area #2 and #3 up to 300 feet when a public benefit is substantiated."

RECOMMENDATION: A public hearing will be held on this proposed amendment July 18, 2005.