

Mt Hebron African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

3800 Springhill Avenue, Mobile, Alabama 36608

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To: Mobile City Planning Commission

From: Mt Hebron A.M.E. Zion Church, Mobile District, West Alabama Conference of the
A.M.E. Zion Church

CC: Dr. Edmonds, Springhill Animal Clinic; District 7 Councilwoman, Gina Gregory

Date: July 28, 2019

Re: Rezoning from R-1, Single Family District, to B-1, Buffer Business District

Rezoning Committee:

This letter has been drafted out of concern for the proposed plan to rezone the vicinity surrounding the 3800 block of Springhill Avenue (Mobile, Alabama 36608) from a residential area to a business district. Mount Hebron African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is located at 3800 Springhill Avenue. We have been in contact with the potential buyer of the property regarding the use of the address for the land that is for sale. The property that Springhill Animal Clinic is seeking to build their clinic on is next to the church. It is our understanding that the owners of that property are trying to determine the actual address of the land. We are hopeful that this can be clarified soon.

In addition to the rezoning and discrepancy with the address of the property for sale, we are concerned about unforeseen issues that may impact the community around us. October 2019 will mark the documented 145th Anniversary of Mt Hebron. The community around the church actually predates the church. Many of the residents are keepers of the history of their foremothers and forefathers. They were former slaves who started what is known as Sand Town.

Sand Town is the area that is proposed for rezoning. It is an African American community that dates back to the 1800s. Sand Town included family dwellings, a church, a school, and a cemetery. Mt Hebron A.M.E. Zion Church was actually formed by these same former slaves who united together in faith. They held prayer meetings in homes throughout the Sand Town community (currently the 3800 block of Springhill Avenue and Knowles Street). These informal faith gatherings eventually became the Mt Hebron Methodist Church at Springhill Sand Town. 1874 is the celebrated year of Mt Hebron's formal establishment. The church connected with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1901.

The Springhill School educated African American children until their doors closed in during the late 1940s. Rising Sons Cemetery is where many of the Sand Town natives and veterans are buried. The cemetery is located at the end of Knowles Street behind the property where the Springhill Animal Clinic is to be built.

Let your light shine!