

## MEMORANDUM

FROM: Kwabena “Cubby” Nkromo, NPU-T Chair  
TO: NPU-T General Body  
RE: Chairperson’s Report  
DATE: 12 December 2007

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### **“Dedicated to building on our strengths in clean, safe neighborhoods.”**

For your new Neighborhood Planning Unit “T” leadership team, this is our theme and call to action for the coming year. We intend to meet and exceed the best standards in the city of how a NPU is administered. Going further, however, we are also committed to exploring how much more we could achieve with this truly unique civic engagement tool: The NPU System. Our goal is nothing less than true community empowerment.

#### **Safe neighborhoods**

In 2008, we will continue the work begun under Tacuma Brown’s leadership by further developing the NPU-T *Crime Task Force* (CTF). We cannot continue to do the same things and expect our neighborhoods to become any safer. The status quo will not save us from persistent crime that makes our homes, cars, and businesses targets, while choking off potential development that we want for our communities. Our approach to public safety must change.

The CTF is charged with discovering and creating innovative approaches to combating crime in our neighborhoods. It is our own “think and act” tank on public safety, researching new ideas and building partnerships to make things happen. Under Jasper Boykin’s capable leadership, it will build upon the structure created in its first year and implement the Scope of Work outlined in Atlanta Renewal Communities Resident-Driven Public Safety Initiatives grant. Jasper will as work closely with our new chair of NPU-T’s Public Safety standing committee, Graham Jackson, who brings inspiration and passion to this role in his own right.

#### **Clean neighborhoods**

Our environment is a reflection of who we are as a community, as well as in indication of our collective expectations. The “dirty truth” is that our neighborhoods will only be clean when we create a culture of accountability with ourselves, property owners, and city government. We have to start with the simple standard of making it unacceptable for us or anyone else to drop trash on the ground or dump debris anyplace. The next step is using the code enforcement tools available (and those tools of last resort) to make sure properties are well maintained and safe, by any means necessary.

Scott Smith has made a meaningful impact on the code enforcement and mortgage fraud problems in his home neighborhood of Westview. As chair of the Code Enforcement Committee, he will bring best practices learned from his experience to NPU-T’s efforts in this area. We will also partner with the Black Slate™ Neighborhood Beautification Program to support clean ups throughout NPU-T.

## **Building on Our Strengths**

In spite of the many challenges we face as a community, we choose to look at the proverbial glass as half full. NPU-T's approach to sustainable community revitalization is rooted in the **Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)** principle of identifying and surveying "community assets" e.g., the skills of local residents and the existing physical and economic resources of the community and empowering residents to use those assets to improve the quality of life in their own communities. We intend to combat the number of crises we have but restoring hope in our ability to create for ourselves the kind of neighborhoods we want to have. Let us begin anew.

### **2008 Elected Officers:**

- Kwabena "Cubby" Nkromo – Chair
- Oni Holley – Vice Chair
- Scott Smith – Secretary
- Debbie Zimmerman – Assistant Secretary
- Dr. Gwendolyn L. Porter - Chaplain

### **Appointed Officers:**

- Muata Onyemachi – Sergeant-at-arms
- Nia Knowles – Public Relations Officer
- Jerry "Tacuma" Brown – Community Ambassador
- Melanie Wofford – Non-profit Council Coordinator

### **Appointed Committee Chairs:**

- Oni Holley - Bylaws
- Scott Smith - Code Enforcement
- Jasper Boykin - Crime Task Force Coordinator
- Robert Thompson - Economic Development & Consumer Affairs
- Bakeeba Ayinde - Education
- Kwabena Nkromo – Executive
- Evelyn Washington - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs
- Public Safety Committee - Graham Jackson

### **Remaining Standing Committees for Appointment:**

- Zoning and land Use

### **Other Items:**

The Executive Committee will meet 7:00PM Thursday January 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be hosted by the Booker T. Washington Community Association (location TBA). This meeting is open to the public, but only committee members may participate.