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6PM, first Mondays
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December 4, 2017

To: City Council Members, Mayor Strickland and City Manager Pauli

Re: Billboards

Dear City Leaders,

I am writing on behalf of the North End Neighborhood Council to encourage you to expand the timeline for the decision on the billboard compromise.

While we appreciate your efforts to reach a compromise solution and end the prospect of litigation, and while we also recognize that the compromise on the table is a significant improvement over the original deal with Clear Channel that involved digital billboards, we are unhappy about the timeline presented to the community for making a decision.

In a February 2, 2016 letter we sent to the City Manager, the Council, and the Mayor, we asked for plans for the reduction of faces and also for updates on the process. The response we received confirmed that we would receive adequate notification. The announcement of the compromise and the timeline established for making a decision on the compromise don't constitute an adequate amount of notification, at least if the city is hoping for meaningful citizen feedback on the plan.

We have concerns about pieces of the compromise, specifically whether Design Review, the process being built by the Planning Department, can oversee the quality of the faces being placed in the places they are allowed. But because of the timeline, we do not have enough time to explore those concerns with our neighbors before the City Council must vote on this issue.

Again, please consider expanding the timeline to allow for more meaningful input into a solution that will be with the city for many years.

Sincerely,

Kyle Price
NENC Chair, on behalf of the NENC

