

## UPDATE ON “THE BIG STINK”

by John Noble

Two Durham City Councilmen, Reece & Middleton, have reached out and asked to meet with our South Durham Odor Group Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> at the corner of Dunbrook and Falconbridge 6:30pm regarding the almost daily, nauseous odors from the water plant that spread ½ mile in all directions here in South Durham. The odors spread like chimney smoke following the topography so not everyone suffers, but for those that do it is intolerable. We won't have any update on the progress, as there has been none, until after that meeting.

So far not the city council, city manager, the water department nor the plant itself have given us any answers about what they are going to do to immediately and permanently eliminate the odors from the older technology open air sewage treatment plant incorrectly labeled as “water reclamation”.

The \$65Million Phase 1 renovations starting soon do not address all the odor issues identified by Hazen & Sawyer in Raleigh, the design engineers, in 2014. We were given copies of that report. They budgeted \$1.5Million to address all the odors but for some reason it was decided to delay all the odor renovations until Phase 1 was complete in the next three years before starting Phase 2. We are demanding they add the odor elimination now to Phase 1 with what is called an Additive Change Order, common in the commercial construction industry.

With all the development in South Durham and thousands of new toilets coming on line soon it is only going to get worse. We have been asking for the last two months for answers and so far deafening silence. Not the quality of life you would expect in a modern city like Durham.

These are the neighborhoods and businesses that have stepped up to say “ENOUGH”! and are demanding answers. These odors go across NC-54, I-40 and all the way to 751.

The South Durham Odor Group includes:

- Falconbridge Community, John Noble point of contact
- Crosstown of Chapel Hill apartments, Jostlyn Cameron, Community Manager
- Holiday Inn Express, EbenAgyen, General Manager
- Nantucket Grill, Rick Cheek, General Manager
- Carolina Vascular, Virginia Hamilton, Administrator
- Hyatt Place, Pete Byers, General Manager
- Waypoint Church, Josh Benfield, Executive Pastor
- Dilweg Office Complex, Sarah Warren, Property Manager

All of the above complain about getting hit with the strong sewer smell several times a week.