

DRAFT 17 March 2009

BURNT Recommendations to the Mayor and the Green Ribbon Committee

1. BURNT commends Mayor Karl Dean for the Green Ribbon Committee effort. We appreciate the effort of the members selected to participate. We urge The Green Ribbon Committee to coordinate and work with other such efforts in Tennessee.
2. We believe the poverty, bad health, education, and poor environment of many people in Nashville and Tennessee has a direct influence on Nashville environment
 - A. Tennessee has a worse infant mortality rate than Cuba or Hungary
 - B. In a state with very bad education standards, Davidson County is one of two counties under control of the State Board of Education due to poor performance.
3. We believe the Green Ribbon Committee and the Mayor must be open about the closed nature of Nashville government and inequality of opportunity
 - A. North American Galvanizing is allowed to run 18 wheeler diesel trucks through Sylvan Heights 24 hours a day and disrupt two other neighborhoods with 24 hour noise. The Metro Board of Health and Metro Department of Law would never have fought for this company in Belle Meade or Bellevue.
 - B. Nashville schools are “minority in majority” due to white flight to private, basically white schools.
 - C. Major projects such as the \$700 million Convention Center, Sounds Baseball Stadium and River Front development plan never had a public hearing before MDHA or the Planning Commission. Without Agency participation, citizens have little recourse.
4. We urge the “Phillips Metals” site be made an absolute priority for redevelopment with full partnership of the company and a commitment to find an in-county location for the business with needed rail, water, and road connections.
5. We urge that the Green Ribbon Committee and the Mayor forget about the “easy to do things” and concentrate on several basic values such as air quality, water quality, or health.
 - A. Nashville is plagued with childhood diseases such as asthma and Type II diabetes which barely existed forty years.
 - B. Commuter traffic choking our air with exhaust morning (incoming) and night (outgoing) is easily remediated with a determined and absolute policy distributing traffic

C. Plan now to begin investment in light rail electric power cars incoming down every major avenue—Charlotte, West End, Gallatin, Dickerson, Nolensville, and Murfreesboro

6. Construction in flood plains was literally a scandal of Nashville government. However, even with a new department, flood plain construction is too easy and out of control. We urge an absolute, with no variances, standard for all construction based on damage to the water.

7.. Metropolitan Nashville with a nearly \$2 billion budget (\$2,000,000,000) is a major influence in middle Tennessee

A. Urge Metro to adapt and follow a successful ‘green’ purchasing policy such as that developed by San Francisco

B. Metro to survey ALL chemicals including pesticides and amounts used by all Departments including Fire, MDHA, Parks, and Public Works. Begin a public process of evaluating and discussing these based on impact of chemicals on environment and need. .

8. Treat solid waste as a health and environment threat which can be reduced and eliminated and used as a raw material to create jobs, business, compost.

A. ALL demolition permits issued require “deconstruction” NOT demolition. Deconstruction creates jobs, profits, and valuable goods for sale.

B. A permit to tear down an existing residential, store, or restaurant to replace with the same type building shall be heavily taxed—Metro will work to incorporate the existing building into what ever new building is needed

C. Metro generates 350,000 tons of food and yard waste annually which should be composted preferably in county

D. Export of human and business waste for agriculture uses exports our poison. We urge this sewer sludge be landfilled. If it is used on golf courses and farms, it should be used in Davidson County.

9. Strongly support the recent pledge to dedicate the curriculum of a Metro school to environment and health

1. Evaluate science and math curriculum developed around environmental injustice problems which motivates minority students to learn

2. We need to train the technicians to begin the research and clean up effort from our nation’s and world mindless polluting of the last 70 years

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