

Long Savannah plan

I was stunned to read the criticism from City Council member Henry Fishburne in a Nov. 28 Post and Courier article regarding the city's support of the proposed Long Savannah plan.

Mr. Fishburne claimed that the city was "... going against smart growth principles and against working with other governments." The facts indicate otherwise.

Long Savannah represents the cutting edge in properly planned suburban growth. Megan Desrosiers of the Coastal Conservation League did an excellent job of outlining the smart growth aspects of the project in a Nov. 30 commentary in The Post and Courier. I will not bother adding to the pro-environment and growth-control elements of the plan that she so eloquently described.

I will instead point out that Mr. Fishburne's additional allegation that Mayor Riley and his staff did not work cooperatively with other local governments in planning this project is patently false. In fact, this project began as a county project while I was chairman of Charleston County Council. Early on, I recognized that the types and levels of government services that would be required for Long Savannah were beyond that which the county had to offer. I also recognized that the project bordered many neighborhoods in the city of Charleston.

As a result of those factors and my commitment to regional planning, the city of Charleston was engaged early on. Mayor Riley and I subsequently directed our respective staffs to work cooperatively with one another to see if the proposal could be developed in a way that fit the best interests of our region. Charleston County PRC was involved as were representatives from Red Top, CPW, conservation groups and others. The parties worked together for many months, and they continued to work together many more months after I left County Council to assume my duties as a state representative.

Contrary to Mr. Fishburne's claims, Long Savannah is a shining example of regional planning, smart growth and local governments working together and working with concerned citizens. If all of our development was as thoughtful, cooperative and community oriented as Long Savannah, we could assure the protection and preservation of our precious quality of life for generations to come.

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