



May 9, 2018

To: Planning Commission/ City Council

From: Partnership For a New Phoebus

Subject: Amending the PH1 Zoning District to include tattoo parlors

Several months ago a business owner from Norfolk approached the Partnership seeking public support to open a tattoo studio in Phoebus. Our PH1 zoning currently does not permit this activity. This individual currently operates two successful tattoo studios in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. We met with this individual and visited his businesses. Our intention was to better understand the general nature of this type of business. We then held several meetings with Planning Department staff to better understand amending our zoning and the implications of a change. The board also discussed at length changing perceptions and acceptance of tattoo studios. The board felt that there was sufficient merit in this idea to take it to the community. On 5/2/2018 a community meeting was hosted by the Partnership and the Planning Department. Approximately 30 residents and business owners attended. Planning staff provided an information segment for the public followed by open discussion. The question was then put to the attendees. 64% indicated their support for amending the zoning to permit this activity.

Based on our discussion and research of this issue, as well as, feedback from our community meeting, the Partnership is requesting the City move forward with a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to allow tattoo parlors in the Phoebus District (PH-1).

Sincerely,

Robin Carpenter
President, Partnership for a New Phoebus