

As a resident of South Knoxville and active participant in the growth of our community, I am firmly in support of this project. I reside in Lindbergh Forest, on Tipton Ave. We had a similarly blighted old school, the former South High, that was brought back to life through the wise investment of a private firm. As the saying goes: "a rising tide floats all boats," the reinvigoration of this derelict property has dramatically improved our street, our neighborhood, and South Knoxville as a whole. The care given to the historical fabric of our community creates a sense of continuity between past and future. It also spurs further investment both in property and infrastructure. I firmly believe that the Giffin revitalization will yield similar results. The blighted property will be put to good use, where once students learned, families will grow. Where decay sits, futures will rise.

There is, in my opinion, unfounded fear surrounding subsidized housing. Wild tales of housing projects filled with crime and violence do not fit the fact-supported reality of income-capped housing. The types of families that take advantage of this program are the ones filling critical jobs like school teachers and fire fighters, retail employees and grocery clerks. If we expect to have affordable amenities in our urban neighborhoods, then we must provide housing for those that take these thankless jobs.

The concerns raised regarding sewage and traffic are legitimate, but manageable. The sewer issue specifically would likely not get addressed in a timely manner without the investment and need driven by the Giffin revitalization.

I hope the commissions will approve the necessary rezoning. Thank you for your time.