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CITY MANAGER **RUDOLPH SMITH** • CITY CLERK **SUSAN B. WUERZNER**

February 6, 2009

Mrs. Anne Webb
669 Oak Terrace
Norcross GA 30071

RE: History Center

Dear Anne:

In order to get past the impasse we appear to have with the Norcross History Center and utilize the vacant house we have available at 189 Lawrenceville Street, we plan to propose the following for council's consideration at the retreat:

- Designate 189 Lawrenceville Street as the city's combined welcome center and historic museum.
- Rip Robertson will manage the building as a city facility and at city expense, obviating the need for more discussion on a lease, insurance and funding. He will also manage the Fire Museum nearby.
- The Norcross History Center, Inc. (NHC), the Baseball Club and other groups will be invited to contribute displays, exhibits, and relevant material to the center. Our Economic Development Manager, Steve Bush, has a master's degree in museum science, and he will serve as an expert consultant in getting the museum started.
- We will need a welcome center when we apply to raise the hotel/motel tax rate. We can use this money to provide an on-site staff member to supplement whatever volunteer staffing we can arrange. This person would, in addition to welcoming duties, be responsible for safeguarding the displays and exhibits and will coordinate volunteer recruitment and scheduling.
- We are not recommending any additional funding beyond the \$3,200 provided by council and the donation to the NHC from the Art Fest in Irene Crapo's memory. I believe the money you refer to as allocated for Art Fest/Tour of Homes was for event promotion, which all major city events receive?

We hope this will encourage NHC to become a partner in getting the museum running smoothly. We would also welcome your inputs on any renovations inside the building that would enhance exhibit displays and provide secure access to those exhibits. When the museum is established and has become a viable entity, we can discuss how best to expand it and have NHC enter into an agreement with the city similar to those we have with Kudzu, Lionheart and the LAA.

Thank you for your interest in helping preserve the history of Norcross. I hope this clarifies where I believe council is headed. If not, please call or e-mail us.

Sincerely,

Bucky Johnson, Mayor

Charlie Riehm, Councilmember