



News Release

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For immediate release

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(Mobile, Alabama) One of the world's leading urban planning experts will be coordinating a process to develop new zoning and development procedures for Downtown Mobile later this month. Andres Duany and his firm Duany-Plater Zyberk, best known locally for the design of Seaside, Florida, have created plans and zoning codes for more than 300 communities around the world.

Current zoning regulations were adopted in the 1960s and were designed to facilitate the growth of suburban areas. These regulations intended to separate residential, business, and industrial uses from one another and had a chilling effect on the complex weave of buildings, businesses, and residences that make a downtown vibrant. New codes will help relieve red tape delays for investors and unnecessary busy work for public administrators and will better facilitate the revitalization of Mobile's historic downtown core. Duany's firm has been leading the effort to institute a new planning vehicle, known as Form Based Code, in urban areas. Form Based Code clarifies the development process and gives developers more predictability. It will ultimately result in safer streets and public spaces and more pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.

A zoning code is only as good as the vision it implements and the visioning process for downtown stakeholders will begin the week of October 23, 2012 in Downtown Mobile. Property owners, residents, business owners, civic leaders and developers will be able to participate in design workshops that will build on the New Plan for Old Mobile that was adopted in 2012, add critical details, and establish a path to create it. The meetings will be held at the Temple Downtown at 351 St. Francis Street. The workshop will be open to the public Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and public presentations will be provided Tuesday, Thursday, and Monday evenings starting at 5:30 p.m. All public presentations will be held at the Temple.

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