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Florence Gardens Receives Unanimous Approval for Smart Code New Community Plan

Gulfport, MS – March 4, 2008 -- On Tuesday the Gulfport City Council gave its unanimous approval to the Smart Code New Community Plan for Florence Gardens, a 420-acre residential project in the heart of the City's northern growth corridor. With the approval, Florence Gardens becomes the first new master planned community in South Mississippi permitted under Smart Code since the Coast municipalities began adopting the Smart Growth approach to planning in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"This looks fantastic," said Ward 5 Councilman Brian Carriere. Carriere went on to say, "I must commend you all for developing such a beautiful plan. I look forward to watching this development come to life."

Smart Code is a highly-regulated approach to Planning and Zoning that, when applied to new development, is designed to replicate the residential and commercial patterns employed by cities and towns in the early 20th century, creating architecturally rich and walkable places such as Natchez, Charleston and Savannah. Smart Code also requires that land be set aside in neighborhoods for parks, community green spaces and civic buildings.

Florence Gardens' plan features over 100-acres of preserved green space, including nine parks, several acres of community plazas as well as multiple civic buildings for community use and the site for pre-K through 8th grade Westminster Academy. Florence Gardens' 10-acre commercial district, included in its Smart Code plan, will offer residential space above first-floor storefronts and could include neighborhood businesses such as a café, fine dining restaurant, dry-cleaner, florist, boutiques, an art gallery, a fitness center and spa, as well as professional office space. All would be designed in compliance with the exacting streetscape, density and architectural standards imposed by the Smart Code.

Florence Gardens is located off of O'Neal Road in Gulfport, approximately one mile north of I-10 and 1.7 miles west of Mississippi Highway 605.

For more information, please contact Brandon Pike at 228.539.5039 ext. 4 or brandon@florencegardens.com.

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