



October 3, 2025

MPC Members:

We write today to clarify the position of Savannah’s leading business advocacy organizations in relation to the proposed Hotel Overlay District expansion.

First, we would like to express appreciation to the City of Savannah staff that allowed for extensive public participation by all stakeholders. While there were plenty of points of disagreement in those discussions, no one was ever shut out of the process or not allowed to express their viewpoint.

Ultimately, despite our willingness to make significant concessions, representatives of the neighborhood groups refused to budge even a little from their initial proposal. Had we understood their total lack of interest in reaching a negotiated conclusion that we could all support, we could have saved a lot of time.

The truth remains the truth: this expansion makes no substantive difference in the way a proposed hotel would be considered by the MPC and the City of Savannah. Therefore, we believe the current Hotel Overlay District should remain in place with no expansion. We realize that is not an option being presented to MPC, but we thought it important to clarify this position.

If you insist on making changes to Hotel Overlay District, we ask you to consider the least expensive option – “Option 1.” The current district was the result of significant time and effort spent by representatives from all perspectives and was ultimately supported by all that participated. That is certainly not the case with this proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further information or clarity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Brantley".

Bert Brantley  
President & CEO  
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Owens".

Michael T. Owens  
President & CEO  
Tourism Leadership Council