



## Communications Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mayor issues statement about petition-gathering process**

The following is a statement by Mayor Harold Perrin in response to complaints of harassment from some of the people engaged in an initiative to call a special election on a proposal to repeal the new Jonesboro Property Maintenance Code.

“I don’t know whether such claims are true, but our state Constitution gives citizens the rights of initiative and referendum, both of which involve gathering the signatures of registered voters. They should be able to do this without being harassed.

“Those who are passing petitions should be respectful of private property and restrictions upon certain public property, such as not blocking entrances. But government-owned property generally is recognized as open to public forums, including the soliciting of signatures on a petition.

“By the same token, citizens who support the Property Maintenance Code also have the right to be in the same forums and express their opinions to people being asked to sign the petitions.

“Anyone who believes he or she is being harassed has the recourse of contacting police or filing an affidavit.”

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