



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 9, 2014

### **Wilmington Chamber Board of Directors Passes Resolution in Support of Proposed Changes to New Hanover County Special Use Permit**

Wilmington, N.C. — The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is encouraging the adoption of changes suggested by New Hanover County Planning staff to the Special Use Permit (SUP) that will be considered by the Planning Commission at its January 9th meeting. The resolution by the Board was passed unanimously at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 8th.

The SUP, as currently written, creates uncertainty and has been noted by site selectors as a hindrance to attracting new business. Site selectors can't tell a prospect what studies and reports they will have to submit to obtain the permit or how long the process will take. The Chamber studied the issue and made recommendations that would make the process objective and include a timeline.

The language proposed by Planning Department staff provides the clarity and specificity to the process that area economic development groups and businesses are seeking. Despite the misperception that has arisen within parts of the community, the effort was never intended to eliminate the SUP. As many of the Chamber's manufacturing members have said, "We don't mind following the rules. We just need to know what they are." The Wilmington Chamber Board believes this proposed language clarifies those rules.

The resolution passed by the Chamber Board is attached. For more information, please contact Connie Majure-Rhett at (910) 762-2611 ext. 214 or [majure@wilmingtonchamber.org](mailto:majure@wilmingtonchamber.org).

#### ***About the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce***

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is the largest membership-based business association in Southeastern North Carolina. The Chamber's mission is to ensure economic prosperity throughout our region. This is accomplished by: creating a diverse, inclusive organization that serves as a strong voice for businesses in the Greater Wilmington area; offering unique membership benefits, services and education; and challenging government officials to address long term community and business interests.