Mapping Excluded and Underserved Communities to Support Litigation and Advocacy

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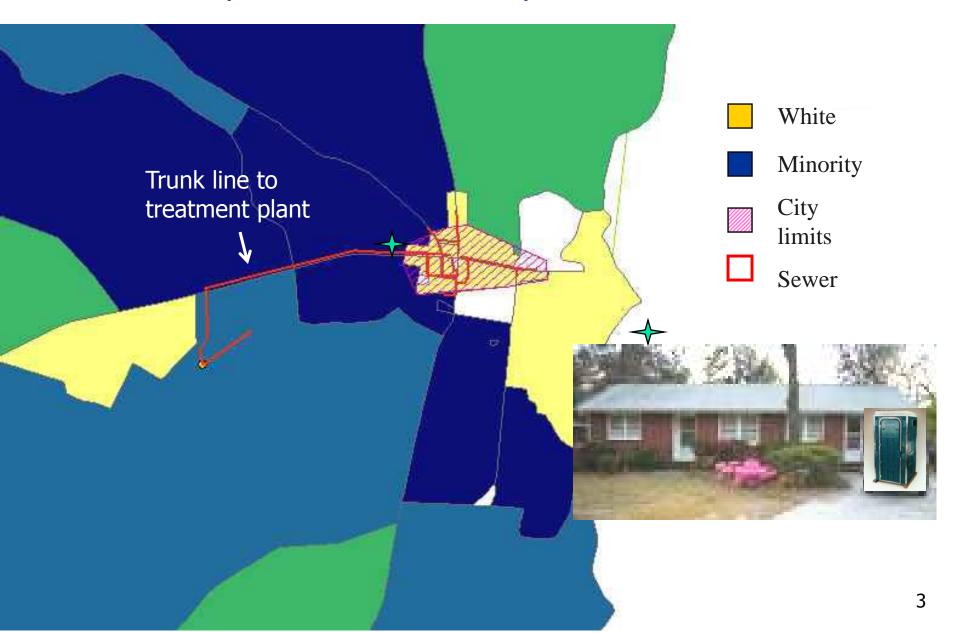
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Maps made in collaboration with Dr. David Marsh of Bucknell University and

Dr. Allan Parnell of Cedar Grove Institute for Sustainable Communities, Inc.

Colerain, NC: Exclusion, Sewer and Race





What are the underlying causes?

- Good government: Maximize Tax Revenue,
- Politics (maintaining control), or
- Racism?



Trenton, NC 1999 "Smoking Gun"

Mayor:
"Trenton didn't want to annex
black neighborhoods because it didn't want blacks on the town board."

1

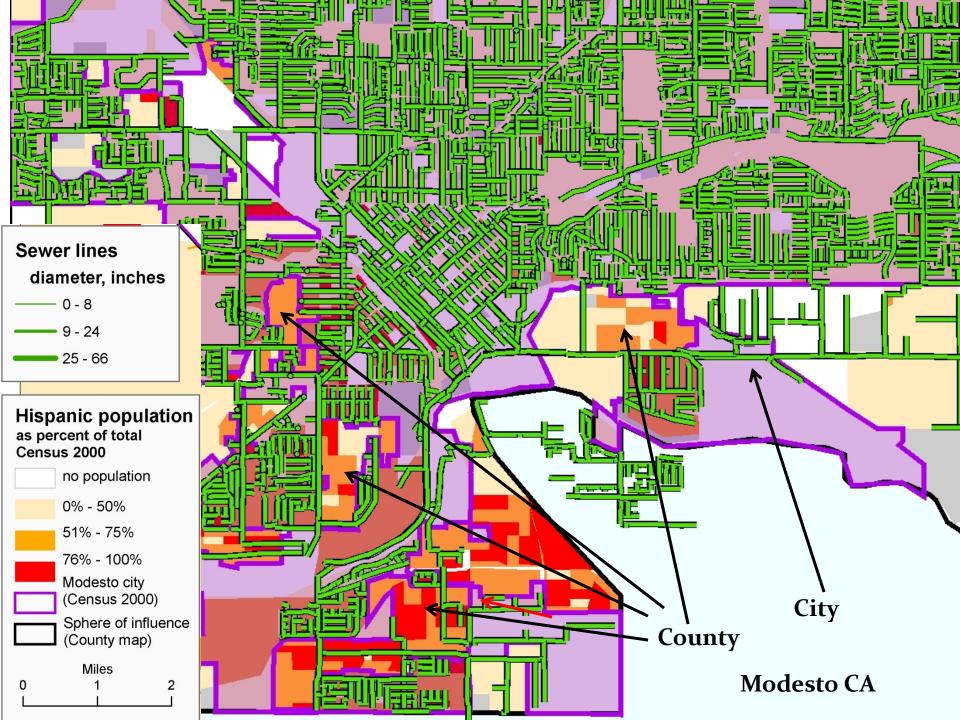
Implications For Excluded Neighborhoods

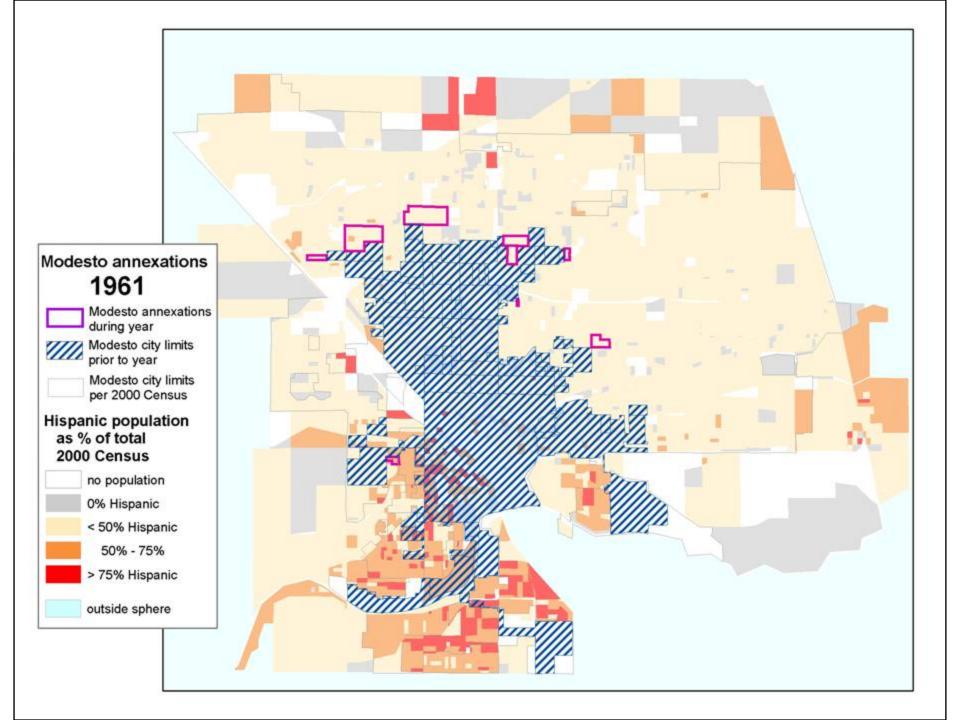
- Public health is endangered.
- Homes at risk of condemnation.
- Property values lowered.
- Affordable housing decreased.
- Home ownership endangered.
- Neighborhoods divided.
- Residents disenfranchised.
- Civic engagement denied.

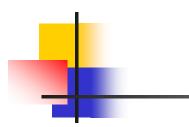


How Widespread is This?

- A 2007 study found exclusion of African
 American communities across the South in the 1990's.
- Others identified *colonias* (dense, under-served, Latino communities):
 - 1,800 in Texas;
 - 138 in New Mexico;
 - 77 in Arizona (Mukhija and Monkkonen, 2007)
 - **217 in California** (Rubin et al, 2007).
- Approx. 20,000 people live in predominantly-Latino islands in Modesto, CA. (Johnson 2007)



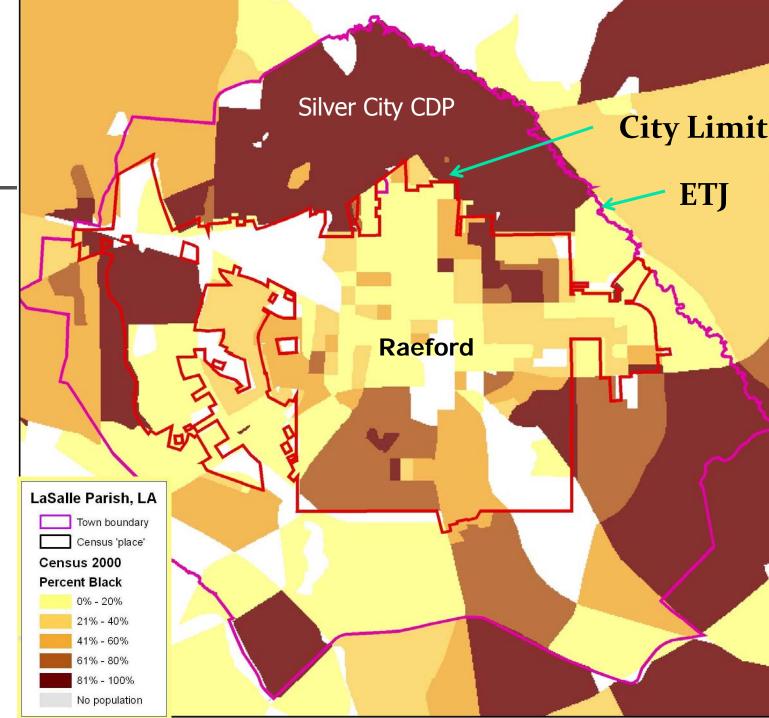




Raeford, NC 45% Black

Silver City CDP

94% Black, Densely-settled Unincorporated



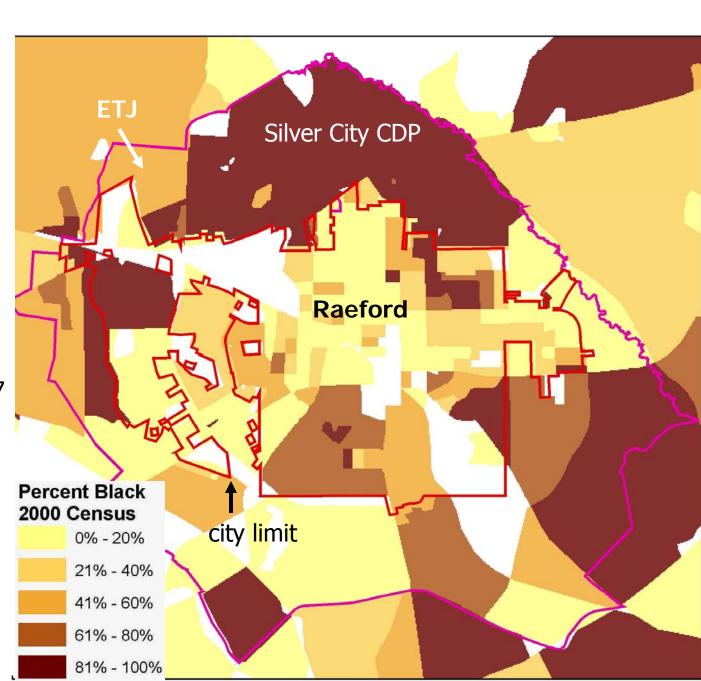
Raeford, NC

City pop. 3,386 49.4% minority

100+ sides

Planning Board meets 7 a.m.

City Council meetings frequently cancelled without notice or not scheduled.



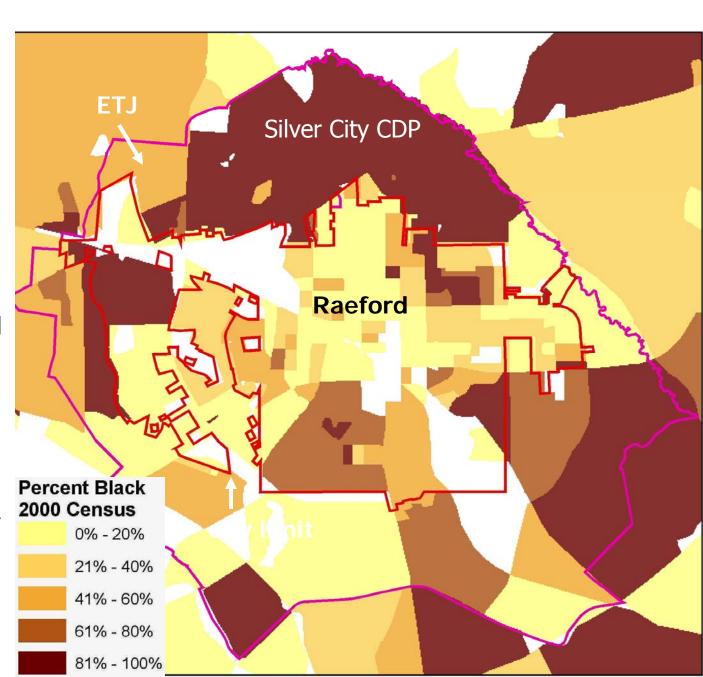
Raeford, NC

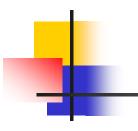
Silver City Unincorporated

Census-Designated
Place

CDP:

"closely settled,
named, unincorporated
communities that
generally contain a
mixture of residential,
commercial, and retail
areas similar to those
found in incorporated
places of similar sizes."
- US Census





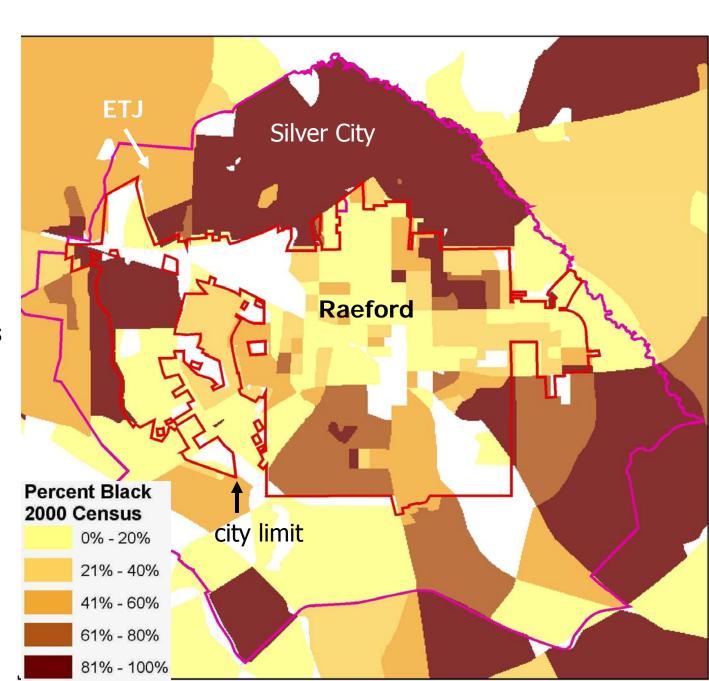
Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)

- Invented to "rationalize" the planning process.
- In North Carolina and 21 other states,
- Allows towns to control areas outside their boundaries.
- Cities select areas for "growth."
- Use ETJ
 - No promises Can be in ETJ or Sphere forever.
- Annexation often developer driven (misses existing neighborhoods)

Raeford, NC

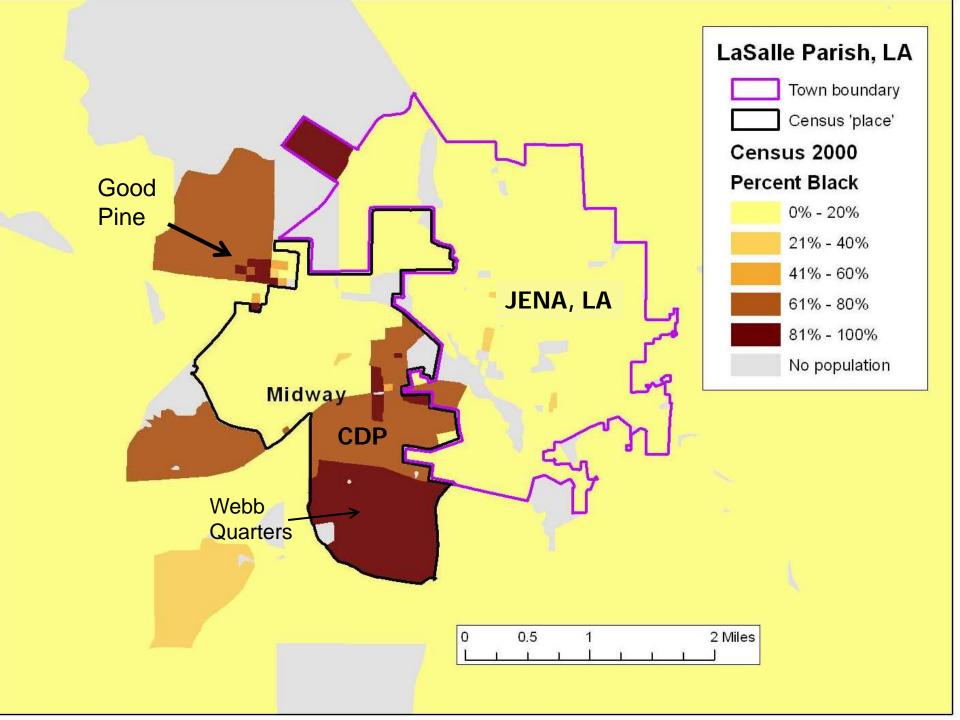
ETJ=74% African American

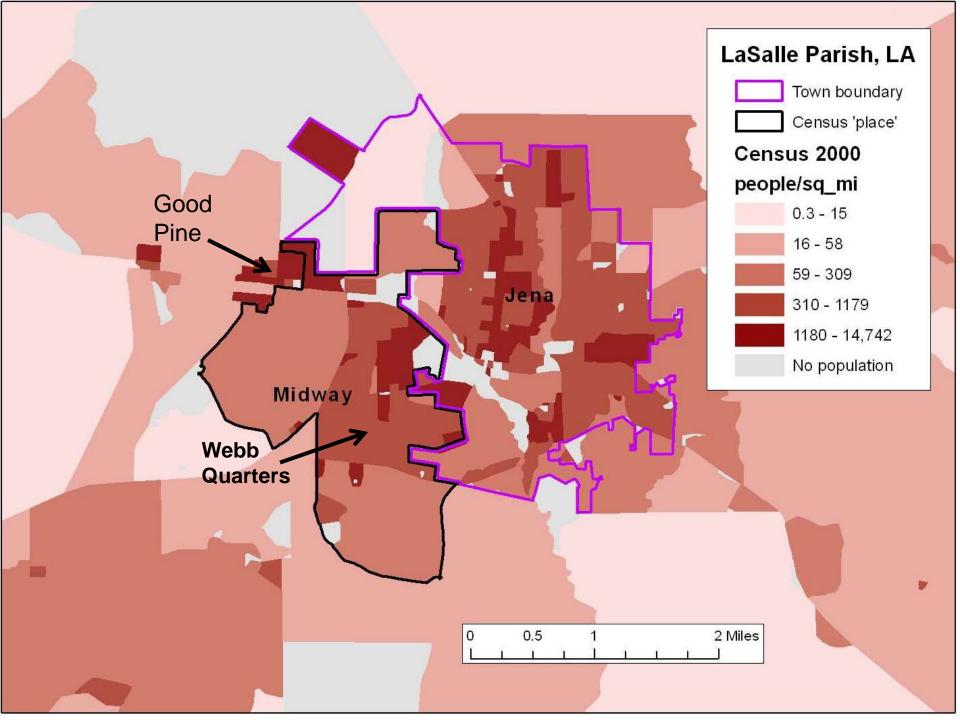
If ETJ or Silver City annexed,
Raeford would lose its
White majority.



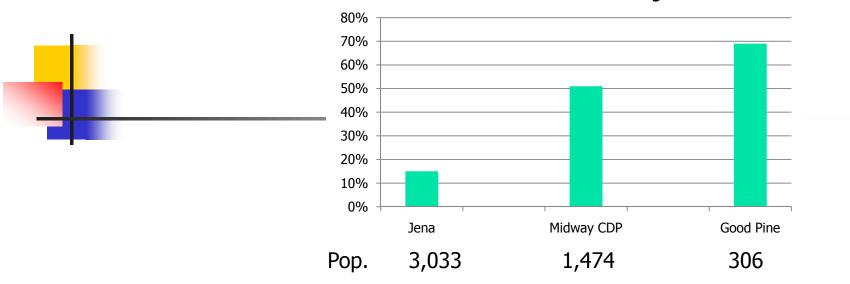


Is it Economics or Is it Race?

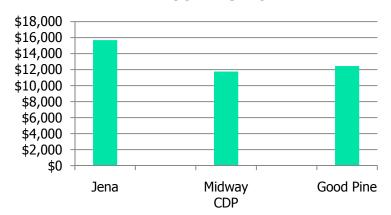




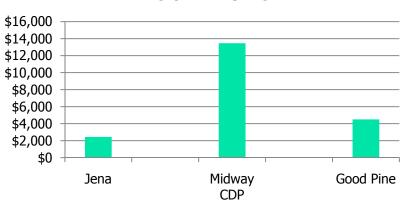
Percent Minority

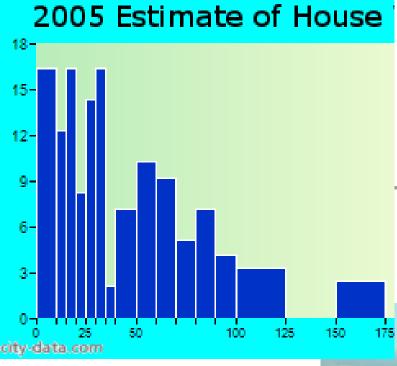


Per Capita Income 1999: White Alone



Per capita income in 1999: Black Alone

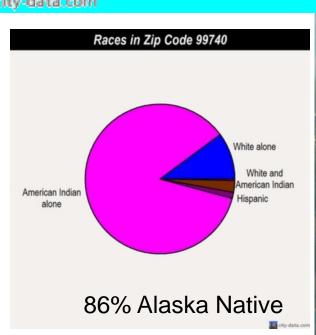




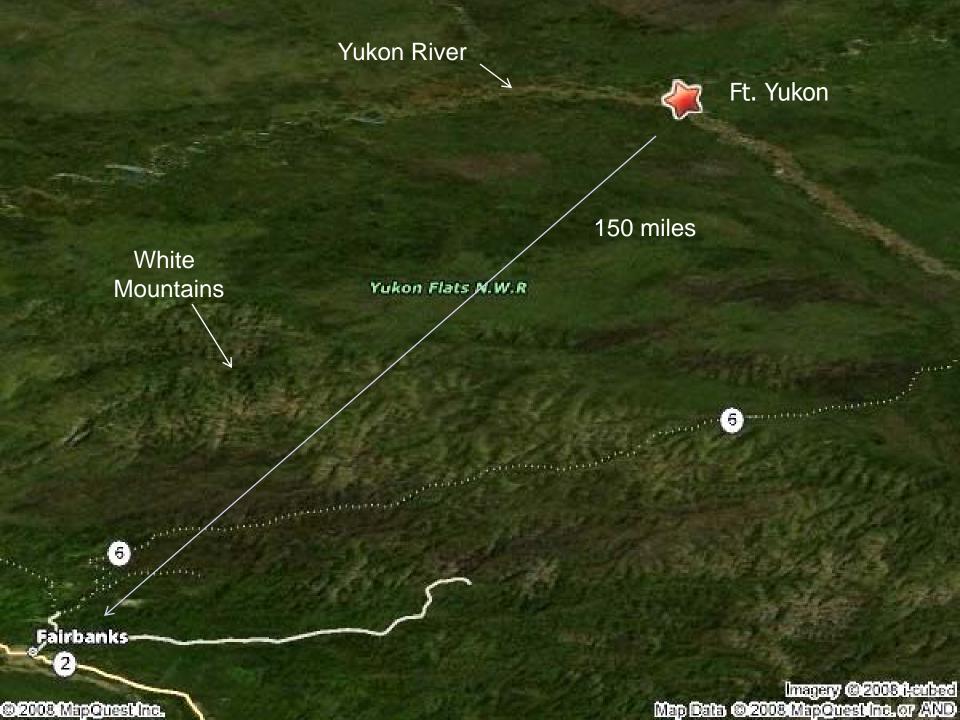
Ft. Yukon, AK Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in pop. 595

Accessible only by air or boat

Regional pop. **approximately 1,320**









Process: A Study in Contrasts

- Government bodies can help or hinder applicants for changes in
 - Zoning
 - Subdivision Approval
 - Special Use Permits
 - Annexation and
 - Other Requests.

Mebane -Racial Composition



Mebane City Limit

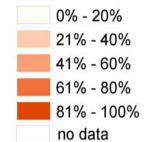


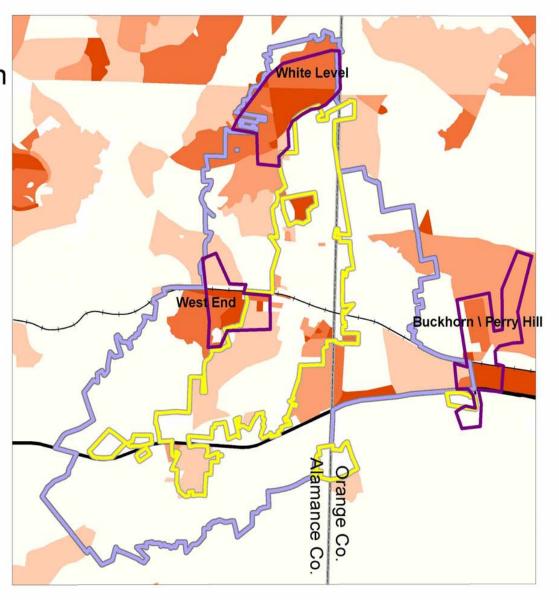
ETJ boundary



African-American Communities

Percent African-American, Census 2000

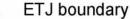




Sewer Service to White Level Community and Mill Creek Golf Club



Mebane City Limit





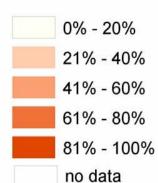
African-American Communities

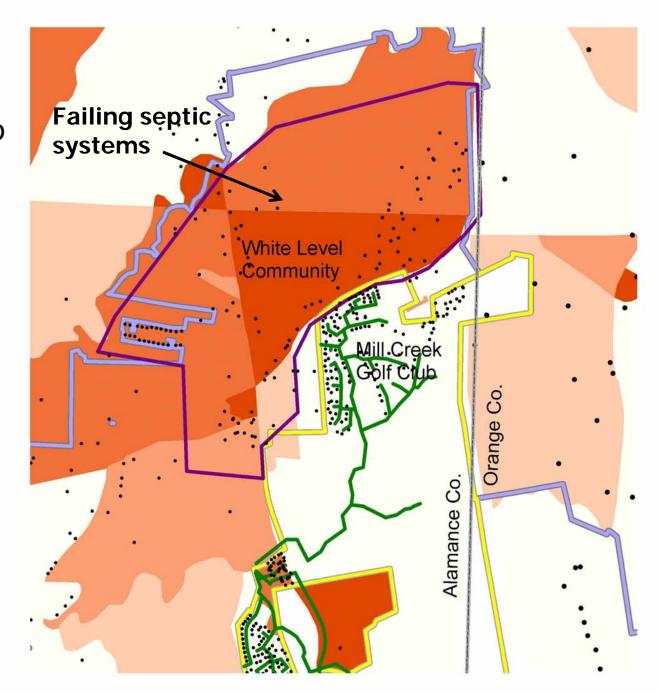
Dwellings



Sewer Lines

Percent African-American, Census 2000





Economics or Race?

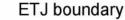


	Population	Minority	Minority Homeowners
Mebane	7,300	23%	46%
ETJ	5,000	22%	78%
White Level	350	81%	93%

Sewer Service to White Level Community and Mill Creek Golf Club



Mebane City Limit





African-American Communities

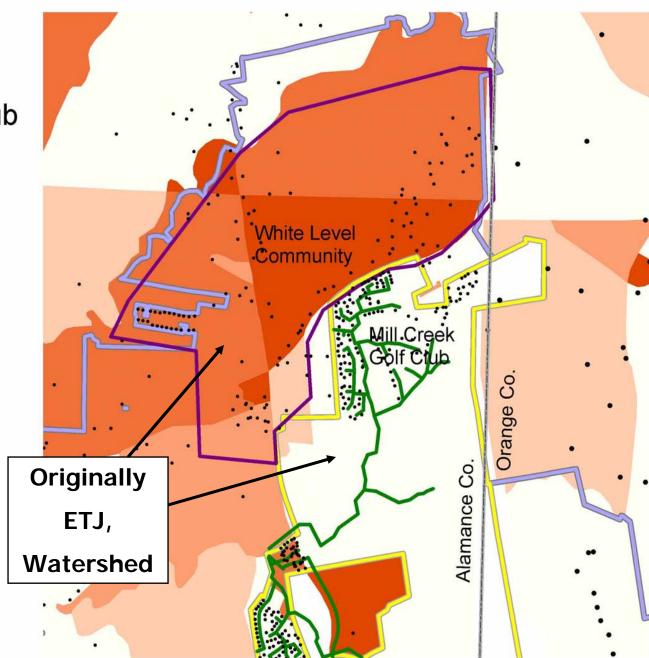
Dwellings



Sewer Lines

Percent African-American, Census 2000







Process Can Illuminate

Case 1: The Club at Mill Creek, 1993

750 home golf course development



Approval Processs: City Council

- In one day
- Consecutively
- Without adjournments:
 - A regular council meeting
 - A public hearing
 - A board of adjustment meeting
 - Another council meeting
 - Another public hearing
 - Another regular council meeting.

On The First Day, the City Moved to:

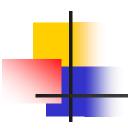
- Approve a Zoning Amendment to allow Zoning Permits with Vested Rights;
- Delete a Water Quality Critical Area;
- Reclassify all R-40W (1-acre, watershed) and R-80W (2-acre, watershed) to R-20 (1/2-acre) Residential;
- Rezone the same land from R-20 to R-12, R-8 and B-3;
- Grant a Special Use Permit for a Golf Course;
- Grant a Special Use Permit for Cluster Housing;
- Approve the Subdivision Plat;
- Approve a Zoning Permit with Vested Rights;
- Accept a petition for Annexation; and
- Vote to Investigate the Petition for Annexation.

NOTE: ALL of these actions involved The Club at Mill Creek.



On the Second Day, The City:

- Held a Special Meeting in the morning
- To Extend their ETJ
- But a signature was missing,
- So council voted to continue that meeting that afternoon...
- Or as soon as the signature was obtained.



On the Third Day, The City:

Couldn't get the necessary signature.



On the Fourth Day, the City Again

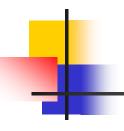
- Consecutively
- Without adjournments:
 - A Public hearing
 - A regular council meeting
 - A board of adjustment meeting
 - Another council meeting.



In Order To:

- Receive the Certificate of Sufficiency for Annexation;
- Annex Mill Creek;
- Extend the City Limits, effective immediately;
- Deal with land that had been outside of Mebane's ETJ until that moment:
 - Rezone from 1-acre, Protected Watershed to R-12 (~1/4 ac.)
 - Approve a Special Use Permit for the golf course;
 - Approve cluster housing
 - Approve the subdivision plat with Zoning Permit with Vested Rights

THE DEAL WAS DONE.



On the Fifth Day

The City Rested.



- Most of the actions received no discussion.
- All of the votes were UNANIMOUS.
- All of the actions excluded current minority residents.





- African American residents petitioned City of Mebane for sewer and annexation, noting failing septic systems.
- The Council quoted \$749,000 for a lift station and agreed to look into a block grant.
- The matter never came up in the minutes again.
- All of the City Council members but one were the same as in 1993 when the Club at Mill Creek was annexed.



Understanding to Overcome Disparities in Unincorporated Communities

- History and Specifics: in THIS community:
 - Alliances
 - History of requests:
 - Formal or informal?
 - Sewer trunk line or feeder line?
 - Underlying land valuable?
 - Environmental concerns?
 - Health effects?



Underlying Mechanisms

- Incorporation/Annexation requires economic analysis
- Regulatory process
 - Tax-sharing agreements, etc.
- Politics
 - Votes
 - Maintaining control
 - Corruption
 - Financing campaigns

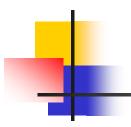


- Community Attitudes
 - Residents want incorporation/annexation?
 - Or just services?
 - Do residents understand real costs?
 - Current costs vs.
 - Costs of obtaining services
- Who has the power in area?



How Do We Overcome?

- Prove NOT just simple cost/revenue problem for the annexing body
- Exclusion ignores cost to the larger community, the financial and health costs to the excluded, and the civic costs everyone.
- Work for system-wide changes



Influence the Outcomes

- Identify leaders and networks.
- Know the law and regulations (federal, state, local);
 - Are they being ignored?
- Identify various interests.
- Monitor and Participate in the process.



Collaborate

- Community Groups and Legal Resources
- Civil Rights Center + CGISC
 + Voices for Justice, etc.
- Similar Communities
 - Modesto and Moore Cnty, NC: multiple neighborhoods
 - Modesto, CA and Moore County, NC partnership
- Media