

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Contact Information:

KFJ Development Group  
Kirk Pugh  
M 910-622-3478  
E [kirk@kfjdevelopmentgroup.com](mailto:kirk@kfjdevelopmentgroup.com)  
W [www.kfjdevelopmentgroup.com](http://www.kfjdevelopmentgroup.com)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **KFJ Development Group Temporarily Withdraws Battleship Point Appeal Noting Election Cycle Timing**

*KFJ Development Group has requested temporary withdrawal of the rezoning request for the Battleship Point development in favor of a slower path seeking a mutually workable solution with the Board of Commissioners, the New Hanover County Planning Staff, and all concerned parties.*

[Wilmington, NC, October 21, 2022] Kirk Pugh, principal of KFJ Development Group, confirms that the group has withdrawn their request for rezoning of the 8.36-acre landmass known as Point Peter, on the western bank of the Northeast Cape Fear River. The land is currently zoned I-2 heavy industrial and KFJ Development Group applied to have the property rezoned to a planned development district.

“The reported public statements are accurate,” Pugh confirms. “KFJ withdrew the appeal to the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners for a variety of reasons. Primarily, we did not feel that asking the commissions to rule on a substantial issue in the heat of an election cycle was wise. The BOC asked for time to conduct joint work sessions with the planning staff - an idea which we continue to support - and now was not the time to continue that process.”

Pugh noted that KFJ Development Group is in support of a joint planning session being charged with conducting further investigations to determine the best direction for the West Bank as a whole.

“We felt like during the election season, the Board would be unlikely to make a decision either in favor of or opposed to the rezoning request that could be independent of political agendas,” Pugh says. “We decided that taking a slower, more collaborative approach is in the best interest of the Battleship Point project, the Board of Commissioners, and ultimately in the best interest of the citizens of New Hanover County.”

### **About KFJ Development Group**

KFJ Development Group is a consortium of residential, retail, and commercial development and real estate sales pros, with a solid foundation of business experience in southeastern coastal North Carolina. KFJ Development Group, which consists of principals Jim Lee, Kirk Pugh, and Jacqueline Amato, are committed to economic growth of the tri-county region, which includes New Hanover, Pender, and Brunswick counties.