

# AQD sends email to members about Journal's zoning series

THE JOURNAL STAFF

Advocates for Quality Development sent an email to many of its members Tuesday, informing them of the series of stories being printed by The Journal and stating that, on the advice of the organization's attorney a "comprehensive" response

would be issued only after the series concludes.

"For those of you who do not subscribe to the Daily Journal, the local newspaper is running a six-part "series" that insinuates there was collusion between Oconee County officials and organizations such as Advocates for Quality Develop-

ment, Inc. (AQD) to deny the North Fairview petitioners a fair hearing on their zoning request. It appears this series may try to implicate AQD in some manner," the AQD email said.

"Rest assured, we have at all times behaved properly and will continue to do so as we advocate

our position on issues important to all of us. With the advice of our attorney, we may answer specific questions but will wait until the Journal's series finishes to prepare a comprehensive response. Should there be any allegations of wrong-do-

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## AQD: Will respond after end of series

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ing we will address them head-on," the statement concluded.

The email was signed by the AQD Board of Directors.

The decision by AQD not to respond mirrors the response of County Councilman Paul Corbeil, a principal in many of the emails being reviewed. Corbeil said Tuesday that he thought it best to let the series finish and "then, if appropriate, send you a response to all the concerns and criticisms."

AQD also did not reply to questions sent to President Jim Codner, although Codner did speak, on the record, with a reporter on Monday.

"We are simply writing stories quoting from copies of public emails. The suggestion that there may have been collusion in regards to how a rezoning request by Jean Jennings was handled was not raised by The Journal, but by one of the signers of Jennings' petition," said Journal Publisher Jerry Edwards.

"The email correspondence made public is fairly one-sided. It is unfortunate that AQD and Mr. Corbeil have chosen not to comment at this time as it makes it even more difficult for the public to decide if there is another side to this story.

"It is our job to reach out to both sides in the interest of fairness," Edwards said. "We've done that."

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