

Development code for Lafayette Parish to be topic of Press Club forum

ADVOCATE STAFF REPORT

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The proposed Unified Development Code for Lafayette Parish will be the topic at the Acadiana Press Club's monthly Newsmaker Forum at noon Monday.

The UDC is a key part of the strategy to implement some of the ideas in Lafayette's comprehensive plan, a wide-ranging guidebook for Lafayette's future that grew out of two years of community forums.

The City-Parish Council is expected to consider the new codes next month.

The UDC will compile and combine various, sometimes conflicting rules regarding development and put them into one, unified, coordinated document. It also will tweak development regulations to allow for more dense and mixed-use development within the city.

An expert panel will lead the discussion Monday.

Panelists include: Nathan Norris, CEO of Downtown Development Authority; Kevin Blanchard, LCG Public Works director; Carlee Alm-Labar, LCG chief development officer;

Bruce Conque, Lafayette Planning Commission chairman; Don Bertrand, City-Parish Council District 6 member; and Greg Manuel, Manuel Builders and a member of the Unified Development Code steering committee.

The forum is held in The Daily Advertiser's first-floor community room, 1100 Bertrand Drive.

The panel will address the Acadiana Press Club and field questions from its membership beginning at noon. Mamma T's food truck will be on-site for lunch. Those interested in attending are encouraged to arrive by 11:45 a.m. to get lunch before the forum starts.

The lunch forum and membership in the Acadiana Press Club are open to journalists, media professionals, public relations professionals, public information officers, communication professors and students, retired journalists, civic and political leaders, and the general public.

Membership forms for the Acadiana Press Club can be obtained at the meeting or online at www.acadianapressclub.org.