

Guntersville, Alabama -- a “pothole” in the road to “Globalization”<sup>1</sup>  
or a mere blemish on the facade of the Matrix?

First, a definition from Webster's online dictionary which states:

“**Globalization** is a **social change**, an increase in connections among societies and their elements.” “Globalization has become identified with a number of trends, most of which have developed since World War II. These include greater international movement of commodities, money, information, and people; and the development of technology, organizations, **legal systems**, and infrastructures to allow this movement.” *Emphasis added.*

The “social change” will, in part, be implemented through the adoption of a “legal system” at the local level, which requires residents to comply with International Building Codes. Voluntarily complying, Guntersville<sup>3</sup> and 45 other municipal and county authorities have, in Alabama, adopted “International Codes” authorized by the International Code Council<sup>2</sup>.

Guntersville's active violation of “private property rights” began when the city appointed a “Design Commission”, which cited Joan Wedgworth, owner of “Trends Salon” for painting a pink three-foot-wide stripe on her store front and applying the name of her salon in pink lettering to an exterior awning – see attached photo. Her action in the opinion of the “Design Commission” violated Section 5-27 paragraph (d) (4) of the “International Building Code”, which states: “Colors shall be harmonious, with bright or brilliant colors used only as accent.”

The primary issue is not the exterior color of Ms. Wedgworth's building but rather her “compliance” with the appointed “Design Commission's” capricious and arbitrary ruling. Such rulings rendered by appointed boards were once understood by society to be not only a violation of private property rights, but also a violation of free expression. Encumbering the right of “free expression” that is the individual's right to choose a color for the exterior of “HIS” building is an incremental step in laying the foundation from which the “thought police” will emerge.

Forcing Ms. Wedgworth to “comply” with the creeping incremental Globalization process demonstrates to the rest of the community the tenacious attitude of local government – i.e. that private property rights can and will be violated at the will and whim of local government. Without the conditioning process local officials would not be assured of voluntary compliance with future ordinances designed to encumber individual freedom.

Transferable Development Rights:

Frequently referred to as TDRs - is the process by which local “governance<sup>4</sup>” boards will, as Shelby County, Alabama Comprehensive Plan states “...proactively direct where, when and how development occurs...<sup>5</sup>”. The process of how this system will strip the private property owner of his God-given right to utilize his property as he determines will best benefit him is described on pages 5 & 6 of Section IV in the Shelby County Plan – see footnote 5 for the link to their “Plan”.

Coming – Home inspection under “Sustainable Development Principles”

The following quote is excerpted from the “Sustainable Design, Construction and Land Development for the Southeast.”

“The Scottsdale Green Building program in Arizona uses a point system to encourage sustainable and healthy building practices in new homes. The voluntary program focuses on five impact areas— energy, building materials, water, solid waste, and

indoor air quality—and is open to all builders in the city of Scottsdale. Currently, an independent inspection is not required to obtain certification although the city does perform random inspections during critical phases of construction and a final inspection.<sup>6</sup>”

Adhering to the principle that government always seeks to increase its jurisdictional authority, the aforementioned is assured, as indicated in the quote to become mandatory.

As Guntersville and the rest of the world move toward the goal of total “Globalization” i.e. “Sustainable Development<sup>7</sup>” additional aspects of the mantra – the “standardized value system” will be added – including spiritual.

“The concept of SD should view natural resources not only in terms of their physical form but in terms of the relationships among people, land, water, forest etc... And a relationship goes beyond the material; it encompasses the cultural and spiritual aspects of human existence.”

“The value system has changed over a period of time. The definition of progress has moved from only economic development to that with justice and social development. Now we are talking about sustainable development which has a strong element of ethical considerations besides the environment. A shift in measurement of progress has taken place from GDP (*Gross Domestic Product*) to Human Development Index and now to Human Happiness Index.”

Referencing the “Human Happiness Index”, it could be said that if Ms. Wedgworth complied unhappily with the appointed “Design Commission's” edict, her attitude would be a “blemish” on the facade of the “Globalization Matrix”. On the other hand, if Ms. Wedgworth “STANDS” in opposition with community support, a “pothole” has definitely been created!

1. <http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org/definition/GLOBALIZATION>

2. <http://www.iccsafe.org/government/adoption.html>

3. Sec. 5-8. Technical codes adopted.

“(2) International Building Code, 2000 Edition, and 2001 /supplement including appendix chapters A, C, E, F, G, H, I and J, as published by the International Code Council, Inc. and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions, and terms of said building code are hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this chapter...” <http://www.municode.com/Resources/gateway.asp?pid=12318&sid=1>

4. Governance: "Governance is not government - it is the framework of rules, institutions, and practices that set limits on the behavior of individuals, organizations and companies"

United Nations Human Development Report for 1999, page 8 <http://www.pogar.org/publications/other/undp/hdr/1999/hdr-e.pdf>.

Journal of Religious Ethics "MAKING A CASE FOR THE COMMON GOOD IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY" page 160 definition is drawn from the United Nations "Human Development Reports" - <http://www.blackwellynergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/1467-9795.00102?cookieSet=1> -

see also "Concepts of Governance and Sustainable Development" <http://mirror.undp.org/magnet/Docs/!UN98-21.PDF/!RECONCE.PTU/!sec1.pdf>

5. Part IV page 1 of Shelby County's Comprehensive Plan of [http://www.shelbycountyalabama.com/News\\_Events/Comp\\_Plan/part%20four.pdf](http://www.shelbycountyalabama.com/News_Events/Comp_Plan/part%20four.pdf)

6. [http://www.southface.org/web/resources&services/publications/large\\_pubs/Sustainable\\_community\\_development.pdf](http://www.southface.org/web/resources&services/publications/large_pubs/Sustainable_community_development.pdf)

7. Welcome to the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development <http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/cgsd/>

8. <http://www.ceeindia.org/esf/wk18.asp>

Pink lettering



Pink Stripe