



03-C-0686

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

CARLA SMITH
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT ONE

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W.
SECOND FLOOR, EAST
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335
(404) 330-6039

March 31, 2003

Honorable Cathy Woolard
President, Atlanta City Council
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30335

Dear President Woolard;

Councilmembers Debi Starnes, District 2, Ivory Young, District 3, Cleta Winslow, District 4, Ceasar Mitchell, Post 1 – At Large, and I are pleased to submit Todd Semrau for appointment to the Smoking Ban Task Force.

Mr. Semrau is a restaurateur in District 5 and a constituent of District 1 who is interested in the issue of a ban on smoking in public places and restaurants. We feel that he would be a viable representative and will make an excellent addition to the task force.

Sincerely,

Carla Smith, Councilmember, District 1

Debi Starnes, Councilmember, District 2

Ivory Lee Young, Councilmember, District 3

Cleta Winslow, Councilmember, District 4

Ceasar Mitchell, Councilmember, Post 1 – At Large

todd semrau



"I'm speaking literally but I mean mainly to indicate that Semrau's gift is taking really rundown spots and turning them into amusing restaurants."

—Cliff Bostock
Creative Loafing



Coollest Kid on the Block

The Heaping Bowl and Brew, in the midst of urban renewal, is a hit with its progressive home cooking



Todd Semrau, Heaping Bowl & Brew

Local business

Heaping Bowl's Todd Semrau Brings Us Six Feet Under
by Ridgeley Standard

Todd Semrau moved to East Atlanta a time when the neighborhood had few restaurant options. Yet, instead of seeing what was not there...



...and instead, he saw what was being created in what was not there. He saw the Atlanta Memorial Drive and Inman Park. He saw an area that was not there, but it was something...

MEET TODD SEMRAU

Creator & Visionary of Urban Eats

When Todd Semrau came on the restaurant scene nearly a decade ago, he transformed Atlanta's concept of urban eateries. His commitment and vision to community through restaurants, cafes, and bars, has brought together people and their neighborhoods.

A believer in contributing to the community, Todd became a catalyst for resurgence in East Atlanta Village, a sleepy, worn-out neighborhood that was just beginning to reawaken. His contribution? A casual gathering place, Heaping Bowl & Brew. The "Bowl" continues to reflect and define the neighborhood – a melting pot of ethnicity, culture, and lifestyle.

An Intown/Downtown kind of guy, Todd founded his company, Urban Eats Restaurant Group, as an umbrella organization for his mission: to be a catalyst in the revitalization of urban and city communities by creating places for the people, culture, and personalities of those communities to show up and hang out.

Todd has conceptualized and developed three other neighborhood hangouts – in Oakhurst Village (Decatur), Grant Park, and Cabbagetown – all reflecting the edgy, quirky feel of the neighborhoods.

In Cabbagetown, Todd converted an old factory town general store that had once served the cotton mill community. The space, with solid oak beams, exposed brick, and a 25-foot ceiling, was a perfect setting for a three-meal a day mill town restaurant with blue plate diner dishes. The size was vast and the mood was so good, Todd aptly named his restaurant, Eureka! (I found it!)

Todd's latest venture is a rehab of a tumble-down '50s building as a tribute to historic Oakland Cemetery right across the street. Hence the name, Six Feet Under. The building, reminiscent of an old bait shack, inspired Todd to create a seafood theme. It is one of the few urban eating spots where seafood can be gotten for less, and served up with a neighborly smile. It is a "place to be seen" among politicians and news junkies.

URBAN EATS MENU OF SERVICES

Ala Carte OR Full Service Selection

TODD IS...

Respected by his peers and the communities where his presence is felt

Considered an artist — of the palette and palate of the City

Reputed as a Man for All People and all eccentricities

A Visionary with Integrity — Feeling the pulsebeat of the City while preserving an historic perspective

Todd Semrau has cooked up his next level of service as a partner or consultant to restaurateurs and investors, movers and shakers, dreamers and developers who want to make a positive change in urban areas.

He is open and receptive to your ideas.

To locate the right location for your own restaurant or bar concept

To convert or redesign your existing restaurant or bar so that it attracts more people and generates a more positive cash flow

To design and implement beverage and food kiosks or small value-added custom sundry pods within large retail, entertainment or travel centers.

To convert developed space into an eclectic, funky bar, café, or restaurant

To orchestrate the multifaceted government permitting processes for health, fire, construction, zoning, liquor licenses, etc.

To create a restaurant or bar concept for your existing location (even if your space seems unconventional, these spaces sometimes make the best haunts)

Dessert

To develop restaurant/bar themes and menu selections appropriate to your neighborhood

To consult with organizations and municipalities interested in reviving neighborhoods and attractions.

GRAZING

BY CLIFF BOSTOCK

We have so many delusions, living in Atlanta — like the notion that we are a fully integrated city. Turn on the television and the local folks are, with few exceptions, white, white, white. Go to a restaurant in Buckhead and it's still mainly white, white, white. Even Little Five Points is mainly white.

Heaping Bowl

The way Atlanta should be

I suppose we're a better example than the rest of Georgia, where our embarrassing state flag is often still flown beside its Confederate inspiration. It would be comical (like *Confederacy of Duncans*), seeing people aggressively champion the flag, were it not at heart such a miserably cruel reminder of our "leaders'" failure to do the right thing when it was adopted as a symbol of their opposition to integration. How does a symbol of shame remain our state flag?

Here and there in our city, certainly, there are nriprievcs from the unbearable whiteness of social stratification. A rather amazing, potential example is the new **Heaping Bowl and Brew** in East Atlanta at 469 Flat Shoals Road (523-8030). Located in a store front in the middle of a village-like strip of mainly black businesses, this restaurant is just too cool to be true.

From its multiculturally illustrated windows to its 1950s-style den furniture littered with the day's best newspapers, the Heaping Bowl is pure style and wit. Old bedside-style lamps decorate painted tables. The kitchen, run by the young owner's mother, Izzy, is open and humming. Because of the area's proximity to ever-gritifying Grant Park, the clientele is a multi-racial mix of grunge, Yuppies, beat cops, college students, working folks, radical fairies and kids from Rev. Bronner's nearby Elegance Training Center. (The Rev gave Wayne, Rose D'Agostino and me a tour of his facility, funded by the Atlanta Project, before dinner the other night.)

While it's open for all three meals, I've only tried lunch and dinner. The specialty, of course, is the so-called "heaping bowl" — a big bowl of noodles or rice. Frankly, they meet with mixed success, but when they're good, they're very good. By far the best is the sausage and sage perogies — east European dumplings stuffed with potatoes and cheese, served in browned butter with chunks of sausage and fresh mushrooms for the absurdly low price of \$6.25.

Another, red and white beans with greens picked from Izzy's garden (like Swiss chard), is served over rice but with a broth that is a little too strongly seasoned with dried herbs (\$4.50). The sometimes heavy hand with the herbs is my only complaint, but a significant one. The delicious sounding chicken and noodles with

Grazing continued page 83



impression EUREKA

Todd Semrau's first restaurant, the Heaping Bowl and Brew, is a neighborhood gem in East Atlanta. A new, vibrant, and exciting neighborhood is being born in the heart of the city. The Heaping Bowl and Brew is a neighborhood gem in East Atlanta. A new, vibrant, and exciting neighborhood is being born in the heart of the city. The Heaping Bowl and Brew is a neighborhood gem in East Atlanta. A new, vibrant, and exciting neighborhood is being born in the heart of the city.



242 BUCKHEAD BLVD. N.W. ATLANTA, GA 30309

Dear Fan of Urban Eats:

I invite you to participate in my on-going adventures: to be a catalyst in the revitalization of urban and city communities by creating places for the people, culture, and personalities of those communities to "show up" and hang out.

Everything Old is New Again, and this is my mantra...what I want to bring to the world...specifically in Atlanta.

Here is how I plan to do it, and I would appreciate your partnership or referrals.

- * **Create partnerships** with like-minded people who are in the process of revitalizing a neighborhood.
- * **Work with real estate investors or developers** in determining the best strategies to bring forth a sense of community in urban locations through the use of restaurants, cafes, bars, and gathering spots.
- * **Organize, negotiate and implement** small value-added food, beverage and custom sundry centers for large retail, entertainment and travel centers.
- * **Locate urban sites and buildings** for the creation of interesting restaurants, cafes, or bars in the neighborhood.
- * **Convert existing restaurants, cafes, and bars** to become more community and neighborhood oriented.

As a person who has lived in Atlanta for 20 years and has developed four restaurants in resurging communities, I am open-minded, knowledgeable, flexible, and enthusiastic about working with people who have a similar vision.

Please call me, or pass on my name to the appropriate people who would be interested in talking about any and all possibilities. Let's talk about a next steps we could take together!

Sincerely,
Todd Semrau

CEO, Urban Eats Restaurant Group
(404) 226-6526

03-C-0686

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

A Communication by
Councilmembers Carla
Smith, District 1; Debi
Starnes, District 2; Ivory
Young, District 3; Clea
Winslow, District 4; and
Ceasar Mitchell, Post 1 - At
Large:

Submitting Todd Semrau for
appointment to the Smoking
Ban Task Force.

4/21/03
FILED
WITHOUT
OBJECTION

- CONSENT REFER
- REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ADVERTISE & REFER
- 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred _____
 Referred To: _____
 Date Referred _____
 Referred To: _____
 Date Referred _____
 Referred To: _____

First Reading

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Referred To _____

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other

Members

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other

Members

Refer To

Refer To

- FINAL COUNCIL ACTION
- 2nd
 - 1st & 2nd
 - 3rd
- Readings:
- Consent
 - V Vote
 - RC Vote

CERTIFIED

CERTIFIED
 APR 21 2003

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Catherine W. Westford

CERTIFIED
 APR 21 2003

Rick Davidson
MUNICIPAL CLERK

MAYOR'S ACTION