

Chair and Members of The Planning Commission:

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My name is Stuart Hersh., and like most in Austin, I rent.

I am here to recommend the following elements of the Downtown Implementation Plan:

1. Funding to achieve the housing affordability goals for Downtown should be across the income spectrum of those who work Downtown.
2. Funding for affordable housing identified in the Downtown Plan should ~~be~~ supplement, and not supplant, funding available for affordable housing available in neighborhoods across the City.
3. The CURE and Downtown Density Bonus ordinances should be modified to be in alignment with housing affordability goals across the entire Downtown workforce.
4. The Imagine Austin Plan, not the Downtown Plan, is recognized as the appropriate forum for establishing housing affordability goals for neighborhoods within a two mile radius of Downtown and throughout the City.
5. The Downtown Plan should not be a vehicle for amending other adopted neighborhood plans.
6. Fifth Street from Republic Square to Saltillo Plaza should become a Great Street through the Downtown Plan with appropriate public investment to reflect its historic role in the various Latino communities that have existed and been displaced from Downtown throughout its history.

It may be naïve to think that any of these proposed changes could be incorporated in the Downtown Implementation Plan that has not been amended from the version proposed by the consultant and City staff. But I remain hopeful that this commission, City staff, the consultant and/or the City Council may yet consider suggestions that have merit and are worthy of discussion.

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