

The Independant Citizens Redistricting Commission and Montopolis

Actions

To:

M

Tounget, Craig - ICRC

Cc:

Saturday, August 31, 2013 12:22 PM

I have complained about 1) the ICRC not having a commissioner who lived east of IH 35 and south of the river and 2) the ICRC not scheduling a meeting for citizen input in the area of Austin east of IH 35 and south of the river. Yesterday I received a notice that a meeting of the ICRC will be held at the Montopolis Recreation Center on September 18th.

At this point several people who live in the Montopolis Community will not be attending that meeting and I wanted to explain why. To several of you receiving this email what I'm going to say will be a little hard to digest; to others who have kept up with what happens in Montopolis; the reason will be crystal clear. Simply put I along with several others do not feel safe attending meetings at the Montopolis Recreational Center. One of our most beloved Montopolis citizens, 70 year old Florence Ponziano, was assaulted at a meeting of the Montopolis Neighborhood Plan Contact Team meeting held at that location last year. (I'll leave it up to you to Google search Florence Ponziano or go to Florence's Comfort House web site to see just what all some one the news media refers to as the Mother Teresa of Montopolis (you can Google search Mother Teresa of Montopolis too)

<http://www.florencescomforthouse.org/>

Too be honest the three thugs that assaulted Florence were there to try and pick a fight with me. I saw them come in and I knew what was going on. I got up and left to avoid what I knew was coming. I never thought they would sink so low as to go after Florence, I was wrong. Since they couldn't find me they turned their anger on Florence. If it had not been for the intervention of a couple of folks in the audience (notice not from any one on the MNPCT EC?) those three thugs that had shoved Florence up against the wall would have in all likelihood continued on with their physical assault against a 70 year old.

At another meeting after things grew a little heated ; we got up to leave and the chair of the MNPCT came out a side door and tried to pick a fight with Kai Jai Connors as we were trying to leave. . I was able to derail that with some unexpected profanity which shocked the person who was setting up the scene; to the point we were able to rush on out of the building.

The short version of this problem is for decades Montopolis has been ran by so called "community leaders" who have publicly stated they don't want the police in the neighborhood and they want to work as hard as they can to keep this community all one color, Hispanic. If I had said; I want to keep my community all white I would be tarred and feathered and ran out on a rail; as it should be, but others are allowed to make those same kinds of racist comments and for some reason no one calls them on it. That same MNPCT chair was quoted in the Statesman a couple of years ago as being opposed to a project because it would be used by " white college students" not just college students but specifically white college students. Again if I had said the same thing about black or Hispanic college students I would have been completely discredited.

For some reason there doesn't seem to be any kind of repercussions for hating those of another race in Austin as long as that race is white. (Keep Austin Weird!) Every white person serving on the Montopolis neighborhood plan contact team resigned early due to harassment and intimidation. The chair and the EC of that contact team are the perpetrators; leaving no one on the MNPCT to complain to. There is a long litany of problems and crime under those same community leaders too long to go into in this one email. Simply out; a thug posse headed by a racist has tried to control this neighborhood for decades but now that I along with others are stepping up; that control is slipping. They aren't happy!

I along with the members of the Montopolis Community Alliance fully support the work of the ICRC but considering the history of this neighborhood, we do not feel safe attending any kind of community meeting held at the Montopolis recreation center. That rec center is used a base for the "thug muscle" in the

neighborhood. We really wish the meeting of the ICRC would have been held at the ACC Riverside Campus just as it's been held at ACC campuses in other parts of town. As it is? I know that I will not be attending that meeting and I suspect I'm not too far off base saying many others in Montopolis will not be attending.

I along with other members of the MCA look forward to the day when anyone regardless of race will be welcomed as a neighbor in our Montopolis neighborhood

thanks for your consideration,
del goss

Delwin Goss President
Montopolis Community Alliance (M.C.A.)
Vice President C.L.A.S.P.
Citizen Led Austin Safety Partnership <http://clasp.weebly.com/>

Recipient:

Central Texas Crime Prevention Association 2011 Citizen Award
Texas Habitat for Humanity Leadership Conference 2010 Exceptional Service Award
Austin Habitat for Humanity Extra Mile Award 2004
Presidential Service Award for Community Service Life Time Achievement 2012 Travis County, Texas
Presidential Service Award for Community Service 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 City of Austin, Texas
Austin Animal Services Golden Paw Award 2012
Coming of Age/ Travis County, Texas Recognition Award for over 2000 Community Service volunteer hours in 2012

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