

Good Morning Commissioners:

My discussion centers on the Northeast Area of Austin, Texas and the need to maintain and nurture the cohesiveness of residents involved in this area when decisions are to be made on the creation of districts for the election of council members.

I have been a resident of Austin since 1967 and have resided in the same home for the past 45 years. I am an active member of the University Hills Neighborhood Association (UHNA), formed 42 years ago (boundaries attached). I am presently serving as the association's Vice President.

In Northeast Austin there are a minimum of eleven Neighborhood Associations, including the UHNA, Colony Park, Coronado Hills/Creekside, Pecan Springs/Springdale, Windsor Park, and Imperial Valley; all actively support and address the needs and concerns of this area of Austin.

According to current census data from the Austin demographer, the UHNA community is the only area in Austin, Texas with an equitable distribution of ethnicities; 30+, 30+, 30+ for African American, Mexican American, and Anglo American, plus a small number of Asian residents. Success in our efforts to assure equity for this area East of IH 35, including equitable representation on any future city council, occurs because all ethnicities work together for the good of the community.

The voting precinct for the University Hills area is 151; others present may be speaking to additional voting precincts involved in this Northeast area of Austin.

I am sure you have seen the attached article/picture recently in the newspaper which reflects the possible district lines for four of the ten districts as proposed by the AGR. At its worst, an immediate reaction was that someone had taken too much Vicodin. At its best, use it to get where we all need to be.

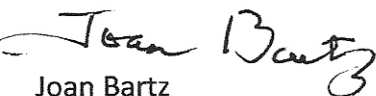
In regard to comments by the Mueller area in the article, their stated desire to be a part of East Austin City Council district is specious at best, hinting at future plans regarding service on the City Council to represent the Mueller interests. Conversely, no such desire for inclusion in the boundaries of East Austin was expressed when the AISD removed Mueller from its District One area, which involves a large number of various ethnicities, and placed it in another district to

Additionally, there has been little, if any, Mueller assistance against projects harmful to adjacent area neighborhoods.

Regrettably, Mueller, with its emphasis on New Urbanism, density, and other covert gentrification tools, is an anomaly with no connection or relevance to the long standing and established communities identified as Northeast Austin. To encourage even the remotest possibility of a Mueller resident representing Northeast Austin as this area's council member would be just another indication of Austin's plantation attitude towards areas east of IH 35. Hopefully, the commission's work will result in the Northeast Austin area finally have a dedicated, knowledgeable, and bona fide area resident working on its behalf.

In regard to the finalization of the map which will result from your work on this commission and the input you have received at these meetings, it is imperative that the individual hired to produce a final map actually do his/her work in Austin, Texas not from afar. As great as technology is, it cannot compete with "boots on the ground" to provide an understanding of the intent of the citizens/taxpayers/voters involved in the completion of this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Bartz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joan" and last name "Bartz" clearly distinguishable.


Joan Bartz


Citizen/Taxpayer/Voter

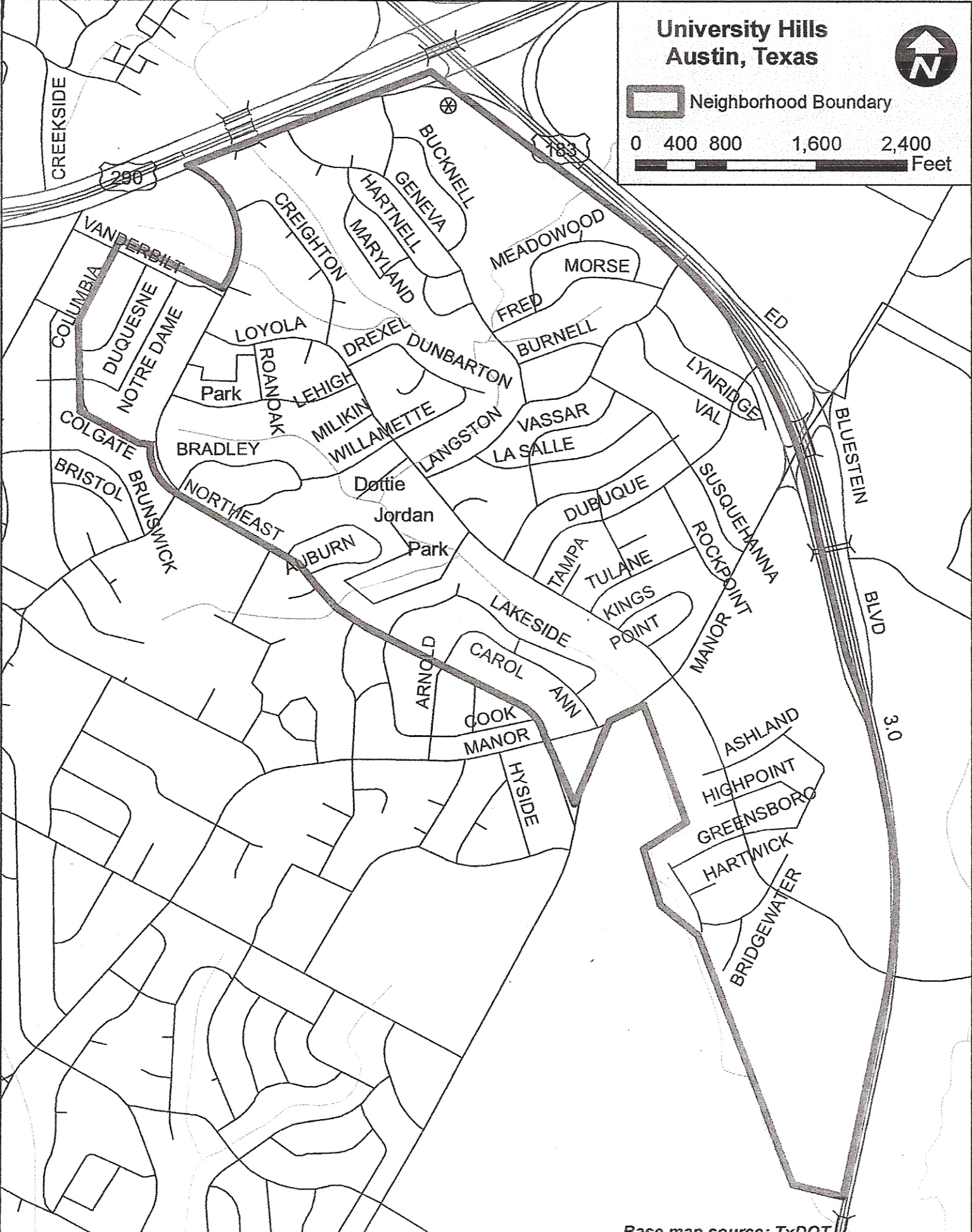
attachments

University Hills
Austin, Texas



 Neighborhood Boundary

0 400 800 1,600 2,400
 Feet



Base map source: TxDOT