

Southwood Neighborhood Association

Bounded by Ben White Blvd, South First Street, Williamson Creek east of the railroad and Stassney Lane west of the railroad, and Manchaca Road

October 18, 2013

Independent Citizens Districting Commission (ICRC)

Attn: Mr. Craig Tounget, Executive Director

811 Barton Springs Rd #425

Austin, Texas 78704

icrc-craig.tounget@austintexas.gov

Dear Mr. Tounget,

The Southwood Neighborhood Association is writing to request that the map for District 5 keep both the Southwood neighborhood and the entire South Austin Combined Neighborhood Planning (SACNP) area within a single district. The boundaries of the SACNP area are Ben White on the north; South 1st on the east; William Cannon on the south; and the Sunset Valley city limits on the west. We will be completing the neighborhood planning process with the City's Planning Department in early 2014. This is the first neighborhood plan to be drafted under the Imagine Austin guidelines.

The sustained participation and interest in our planning meetings over the course of the year has shown that we have a very strong "community of interest". In fact, our City of Austin staff contact has told us that this has been one of the most cohesive groups that he has seen. We are united on keeping our neighborhood character intact, while managing growth in a way that keeps the neighborhood green, walkable and bikeable. We need an elected official who supports these concepts. Previous maps have divided Southwood by creating an eastern district boundary along the Union Pacific railroad tracks in our neighborhood. Other maps split up the SACNP area. Southwood and the SACNP area have the opportunity for unified representation if the boundaries for District 5 are drawn to keep these two entities whole. The current ICRC map boundaries for District 5 meet our concerns. We understand that the district boundaries will likely change as the districting process continues, however, please accept our request to keep our neighborhood and neighborhood planning areas intact and together.

Respectfully,

Ms Phyllis Joan Owens, President Southwood Neighborhood Association

Southwood Officers: Phyllis Joan Owens; Matthew Todorow; David Foster; Navvab Taylor; Lupe Sosa

Working with other neighborhoods to educate, advocate, support, strengthen and inform.

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