

Dear Commissioners:

My neighborhood association, South River City Citizens, was founded in 1972, the first in the city. Our boundaries extend from Lady Bird Lake south to Ben White, and from Congress Avenue east to Parker Lane, just a few blocks beyond IH 35. We followed the school district boundaries. The AustinPlan lopped of the area east of IH35 for planning purposes but those neighbors are still part of SRCC.

SRCC has been an active force for twenty-one years. Since the 1984 AustinPlan, the neighborhoods in 78704 formed the South Central Coalition. We face similar problems and many of the same hopes for Austin. All the neighborhoods, Bouldin, Zilker, Barton Hills, and Galindo are also members of the Austin Neighborhood Coalition.

I hope that you look again at the effect of your proposal on this cohesive civic unit. Peck Young is not speaking for the entire city. We respect the purpose of creating ethnic voting units but this slicing is gaining a small number of Mexican American citizens west of IH35 while ignoring a large number of anglos being swept up from west of Pleasant Valley, Riverside down to Ben White. All to capture the Galindo neighborhood between Congress and Lamar and Ben White to Oltorf. Anglo bodies are needed to add up the numbers. We are not privy to the ethnic maps but surely you can do better than this.

The South Central Coalition area south of Lady Bird Lake is so reduced in size and numbers that it has to be coupled with the downtown area and north to 2222. You are stealing our identity.

Please rework this!

Jean Mather