

WRITTEN STATEMENT TO ICRC

From Dawn Lewis, an official representative of the Highland Park/ West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association

My name is Dawn Lewis. I am on the board of the Highland Park Balcones Area West Neighborhood Association and am here on behalf of our association. We respectfully request you redraw the preliminary map for District 10 related to our neighborhood, because our inclusion in District 10 was based on misrepresentations to the commission by someone without authority to do so. I was asked by the ICRC on October 23 if our neighborhood had agreed to the North Austin Coalition's plan that included our neighborhood in District 10. The answer is no. In fact, when a representative for the Coalition approached our board four or so weeks ago, we told him we needed to survey our neighborhood first, but we believed that our interests were not aligned with the Far West or Northwest neighborhoods but the central city neighborhoods east of Mo-Pac. We were flabbergasted to hear on October 23 that our position was misrepresented to the Commission. We believe that this misunderstanding justifies re-considering our neighborhood's inclusion in District 10, and that we should be placed in a district with other central city neighborhoods with similar concerns and with which we constitute a community of interest.

Our neighborhood is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35th Street, on the west by Mt Bonnell Road, and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Road between Hancock Road and 45th Street. MoPac runs through the eastern portion of this area for approximately two miles. This neighborhood area contains about 1,750 residences and is comprised of approximately 3,300 people.

I have lived in my home for 20 years. I love my neighborhood and feel very passionate about protecting the fabric of our piece of Austin. So does my neighborhood board and so many of my neighbors. We want our neighborhood to be represented by a city council member who truly cares about the issues that impact our neighborhood and to neighborhoods that are near us and who share similar issues and concerns.

Different neighborhoods have different issues that concern them and the issues that concern our neighborhood are similar to the ones that concern neighborhoods just east of Mopac and just south of 35th St. such as Allandale, Hancock, Rosedale, Tarrytown, etc. Our houses are older stock, so we are concerned about issues such zoning, development of state owned buildings, old infrastructure, infill, code compliance, green spaces, short-term rentals, the Mopac Improvement project and stealth dorms. These are not the issues that would concern newer neighborhoods west of us that stretch out to Lake Travis. Our board felt, however, that in order to ensure we were truly representing our neighborhood, that we would create a survey, survey our members, invite them to meetings and discuss with them via phone calls and face-to-face conversations in order to solicit their views. I have attached the results of our survey on this email. That feedback is indicative that our neighborhood strongly believes that our community of interest is with the older neighborhoods just East of Mo-Pac, neighborhoods that are contiguous and not the newer neighborhoods Far West Austin.

I wanted to make sure the Commission understands that neither Robert Thomas or anyone else on behalf of the North Austin Neighborhood Coalition ever had the authority to represent our

views. He presented at our September meeting, and shared with us his vision of how we should be aligned with the Northwest district. Our board responded that we did not agree with that assessment, but we would not stake a position until we had polled our members. As you can see from the results we obtained, our neighborhood does NOT want to be aligned with far west/northwest Austin.

By continuing to rely on his inaccurate testimony and including our neighborhood in District 10, we believe would be rewarding his misrepresentations.

Thank you for all your hard work. I am truly grateful for your service and your consideration of our neighborhood and its concerns.

Dawn Lewis
HPWBANA Board Member