

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

November 5, 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,

Since the Preliminary ICRC map of September 28, the South Austin Combined Neighborhood Planning (SACNP) area had been left intact. That was until the last couple of hours of the November 4, 2013 ICRC meeting. That drastically changed during that short period of time. In the November 4 map the SACNP is split into 3 Districts, Pct 460 and a little bit of Woodhue are in District 5, the rest of Woodhue/pct. 447 is in District 2, and the area from Stassney to Wm Cannon east of the tracks is in District 3. From the beginning Southwood Neighborhood has expressed its desire to remain intact and to keep the SACNP intact as well.

The Southwood Neighborhood Association is writing to request that the map for District 5 rejoin the Southwood neighborhood and the entire 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. Southwood and the SACNP area have the opportunity for unified representation if the boundaries for District 5 are re-drawn to keep these two entities whole. The District 5 ICRC map boundaries after the November 4 meeting are in conflict with stated 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.