

Dear Commissioners:

First of all, THANK YOU for your service to the us, the citizens of Austin. Your task has not been an easy one. We appreciate your taking on this important work to help our city run more smoothly and be more representative of our diversity in the future..

Secondly, we would like to ask you not to separate those of us who live adjacent to Zilker Park from the district of the new council member who will represent Zilker Park and its adjacent Green Belt.

We live (since 1980) 3 blocks from Zilker Park. What happens in the park and adjacent greenbelt affects our family and our neighborhood, which is in the proposed District 5. Our neighborhood endures the traffic, the crowds, the noise, the parking blockades, the inability to easily access our homes during Christmas and other festival times. On the other hand, we enjoy concerts that sound as though they are being performed in our living rooms, and we care passionately about the health and beauty of the fauna and flora around the park. You may be familiar with The Greenbelt Guardians, a group that was formed by a Barton Hills neighbor. You may also have heard of the Barton Hills neighborhood initiative to bring Wildfire Prevention Awareness to everyone living and visiting Zilker Park and adjacent Green Belt during the terrible droughts, or the initiative to save the Heritage Trees around Barton Springs Pool? What happens in Zilker Park and the adjacent greenbelt affects our neighborhood and our lives EVERY DAY.

Can you understand why those of us in the proposed District 5 want to be in the same District as the council member who represents Zilker Park and the adjacent Green Belt? The proposed District 5 Council member should have more say so over events that affect us so intimately. Please move the park and greenbelt from the proposed District 8 to the proposed District 5.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jesse M. Gutierrez

Carolyn Mann