

Late Backup



ROUND ROCK TEXAS
ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Mayor
Alan McGraw

Mayor Pro-Tem
George White

Councilmembers
Craig Morgan
Frank Leffingwell
Will Peckham
John Moman
Kris Whitfield

City Manager
Laurie Hadley

City Attorney
Stephan L. Sheets

May 22, 2015

Honorable Mayor Adler and City Council Members
City of Austin
301 W. Second Street, 2nd Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

Please let this letter serve as our express request that the Austin City Council not approve a resolution directing the City Manager to file a challenge petition with the Appraisal Review Board for the Travis Central Appraisal District. This action will disrupt other independent governing bodies' ability to set tax rates and collect tax revenues necessary to provide essential city services. Austin's filing of a challenge petition will have a negative impact on the City of Round Rock and as many as one hundred other local political subdivisions.

Concerns about limitations in Texas law inhibiting the ability of appraisal districts to precisely determine the taxable value of commercial property is understandable. However, we disagree with the method and timing of the proposed challenge petition because it has not been conducted with the involvement of Austin's regional city partners and will be detrimental to the operations of many entities.

The central Texas area has a proud record of solid regional partnerships on issues that affect our joint interests and citizens. We respectfully request that you continue that partnership in good faith by delaying this action and instead move forward with open discussion, reasonable timing, and in partnership with the City of Round Rock and other impacted local governing entities.

Respectfully,

George White
George White
Mayor Pro-Tem
City of Round Rock