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ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

<u>CASE</u>: C14-2015-0119 – Neal Mixed Use Zoning <u>P.C. DATE</u>: August 23, 2016

ADDRESS: 1507, 1509, 1511, 1601, 1603 Shoal Creek Boulevard

DISTRICT AREA: 9

OWNER/APPLICANT: F. Scott Holdings, LLC

AGENT: Site Specifics (John Hussey)

TRACT 1 - ZONING FROM: GO
TRACT 2 - ZONING FROM: LO
TO: GO-MU-V*
TO: GO-MU-V*

TOTAL AREA: 0.889 acres (38,742 sq. ft.)

*The application was amended on July 18, 2016 to request GO-MU-V zoning for a portion of Tracts 1, 2.

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION (REVISED):

Staff recommends general office-vertical mixed use (GO-MU-V) combining district zoning for a portion of Tracts 1, 2.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

February 9, 2016; Postponed, at the request of the Applicant, to February 23, 2016 [J. Vela III,

J. Schissler- 2^{nd}] (12-0).

February 23, 2016; Approved Staff's request for postponement to March 22, 2016 [J. Schissler /

J. Vela III – 2^{nd}] (11-0). ABSENT – J. Shieh. 1- vacancy on the Commission.

March 22, 2016; Postponed, at the request of Applicant, to April 26, 2016 [J. Vela III / T.

White -2^{nd}] (12-0), 1-vacancy on the Commission.

April 26, 2016; Postponed at the request of the Neighborhood to June 14, 2016 [J. Schissler/

F. $Kazi - 2^{nd}$] (13-0).

June 14, 2016; Postponed by Commission to June 28, 2016, as per passage of the consent

agenda [P. Seeger / A. De Hoyos- 2^{nd}] (11-0). ABSENT – J. Thompson, N.

Zaragoza.

June 28, 2016; Postponed, at the request of the Applicant, to August 23, 2016, per passage

of the consent agenda [J. Vela III / N. Zaragoza-2nd] (12-0).

ISSUES: There is a valid petition at 33.55% in opposition to GO-MU-V zoning.

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The applicant has amended their original application to GO-MU-V for Tracts 1 & 2 with a reduced area from 1.56 acres to .89 acres. Prior to the application amendment, staff revised the original recommendation of GO-MU-CO that proposed to restrict building height to 45 feet based on new information. Questions arose regarding the subject tracts triggering the application of compatibility standards with the City owned SF-3 property to the west, which is green space situated between Shoal Creek Boulevard and Lamar Boulevard. Further research determined that the property was purchased by the City for the purposes of right-of-way and therefore would be exempt from triggering compatibility standards. The 45 foot height limitation that was originally proposed by Staff was to provide an additional height buffer, exceeding compatibility requirements for the single-family uses along the eastern edge of the subject properties. However, after consulting with site plan review Staff, it was determined that due to slopes on the property, a height restriction would not be necessary. Staff believes that a height restriction would have the greatest impact on the portion of the property that has the lowest elevation, which is where it would be most likely to place the greatest height.

There were additional concerns about inconsistencies with lot lines and mapping data to the extent that it was uncertain whether the subject tracts have frontage on W. 16th Street. However, the City Real Estate Office confirmed that the properties do not have frontage on W. 16th.

Therefore, upon further review of the issues outlined above, Staff revised the recommendation to reflect the highest and best use of the property while maintaining appropriate and compatible land uses as transitional elements from the single-family residences to the east to the subject property fronting Lamar Boulevard.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

The subject tracts total approximately 0.889 acres located along a hillside at the north eastern corner of the 15th Street Bridge and Lamar Boulevard intersection on the most southern and isolated segment of Shoal Creek Boulevard and are surrounded by single family to the east, office uses to the north, undeveloped, City owned green space and Pease Park to the west and additional undeveloped, City owned land to the south. Development on the property includes eight structures, ranging from one to two stories which are currently being used for residential purposes. At least one of the four structures located on Tract 1 dates back to circa 1938. The remaining four structures, on Tract 2, were constructed in the 1950's and 1960's. The Tracts, combined, have a total of seven driveways that access Shoal Creek Boulevard.

The Applicant has requested a rezoning to GO-MU-V in order to gain consistency of use and site development standards across these adjacent properties. Additionally, the MU-V overlay is requested in order to remedy the existing legal, non-conforming residential uses on the property and allow the ability to use the density bonus provision for future redevelopment. The density bonus would be contingent upon providing affordable housing units representing 10% of total units at 80% median family income (MFI). Although Shoal Creek Boulevard is not a core-transit corridor, staff recommends the "V" because Lamar Boulevard (core-transit corridor) is less than 120 feet from the subject project with pedestrian access to transit.

In reviewing the zoning request, various issues and details were brought forward that could be a challenge in future development on the properties. At least one structure located on Tract 1 has been identified by local neighborhood residents as having potential for being historically significant. While historical significance has not been vetted by the City Historic Preservation Office, if substantiated, efforts to preserve the structure would be recommended or possibly required. Additionally, there are 3 trees of significant (most likely Heritage) size, located on Tracts 1 and 2. Similarly, there is a

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concern that the properties may have some critical environmental features that could hinder any significant redevelopment of the subject tracts; however, this issue would be assessed at the time of site plan or subdivision. The topography across the subject Tracts presents a 56 foot difference between the highest and lowest elevations with the highest elevation abutting SF-3 zoned properties to the east. These challenges are only to redevelopment and have no bearing on the existing development.

Staff recommends GO-MU-V combining district zoning because the request will allow for a mix of uses, both residential and non-residential, on the periphery of a neighborhood where redevelopment opportunities are encouraged in an effort to maximize transportation options and housing opportunities in a dense, compact manner that is appropriate in the downtown area of the City. Additionally, the site is in close proximity to an established Core Transit Corridor or Activity Corridor. Therefore, Staff believes the request is supported by the Imagine Austin Plan. Existing and new uses and development on the subject Tracts will continue to be buffered from the single-family uses to the east by way of compatibility standards as well as by the topography of the land being such that new development is downslope from the existing single-family residences to the east.

EXISTING ZONING AND LAND USES:

TRACT 1	ZONING	LAND USES			
Site	GO	Office and Residential			
North	GO	Office			
South	LO	Office and Residential			
East	SF-3	Single Family Residential			
West	SF-3 / Public ROW	Undeveloped, City owned right-of-way			

TRACT 2	ZONING	LAND USES		
Site	LO	Residential / Multifamily		
North	GO	Office and Residential		
South	LO	Undeveloped, City owned (Charles Forest)		
East	SF-3	Undeveloped, City owned & Single Family Residential		
West	SF-3 / Public ROW	Undeveloped, City owned		

TRACT 3	ZONING	LAND USES	
Site	SF-3	Undeveloped	
North	SF-3	Single Family Residential and undeveloped	
South	SF-3	Undeveloped, City owned	
East	SF-3	Single Family Residential	
West	LO	Office and Residential	

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AREA: Downtown Austin Plan

TIA: No, however a TIA may be required at the time of site plan.

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek DESIRED DEVELOPMENT ZONE: Yes

CAPITOL VIEW CORRIDOR: No HILL COUNTRY ROADWAY: No

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS:

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Community Registry Name	ID
Judges' Hill Neighborhood Association	58
Central Austin Community Development Corporation	1391
SEL Texas	1363
City of Austin Downtown Commission	623
Austin Heritage Tree Foundation	1340
Historic Austin Neighborhood Association	1400
Austin Independent School District	742
Friends of Austin Neighborhoods	1530
Downtown Austin Neighborhood Assn. (DANA)	402
Friends of Emma Barrientos MACC	1447
Sierra Club, Austin Regional Group	1228
Shoal Creek Conservancy	1497
Bike Austin	1528
Austin Neighborhoods Council	511
Preservation Austin	1424
West End Austin Alliance	998
Old Enfield Homeowners Association	173
Site Specifics	832
Old West Austin Neighborhood Plan Contact Team	1011
Old Austin Neighborhood Association	57

SCHOOLS: Bryker Woods Elementary, O Henry Middle, Austin High

CASE HISTORIES:

NUMBER	REQUEST	PLANNING COMMISSION	CITY COUNCIL
C14-2010-	LO-H to GO-H	12/16/2011 – forwarded to City	12/6/2015 – request withdrawn by
0206 –		Council w/o a recommendation.	the Applicant.
Arabella;			
1502 West			
Avenue			
C14-2010-	SF-3 to GO	10/26/2010 – Denied GO.	2/17/11 – request withdrawn by
0101 – Shoal			the Applicant.
Creek Blvd.;			
1808 Vance			
Circle			
C14-2010-	NO-H-CO to	Case Expired before being	Case Expired
0095	NO-H	scheduled for public hearings	
C14-06-0016	LO to SF-3	3/28/2006 – Apvd SF-3.	4/27/2006 – Apvd SF-3.
- Replat of			
West 16 th			
Place; 908 W			
16 th Street			

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RELATED CASES: There are no prior cases for the subject tracts.

ABUTTING STREETS:

Name	ROW	Pavement	Classification	Sidewalks	Bike Route	Capital Metro (within ¼ mile)
Shoal Creek Blvd	72'	35'	Collector	No	No	Yes

<u>CITY COUNCIL DATE</u>: <u>ACTION</u>:

March 24, 2016; Approved Staff's request for postponement to May 12,

2016 [D. Zimmerman / S. Renteria- 2^{nd}] (9-0) ABSENT – S.

Gallo, G. Casar.

May 12, 2016; Approved Staff's request for postponement to August 11,

2016, per passage of the consent agenda [D. Zimmerman /

A. Kitchen- 2^{nd}] (11-0).

August 11, 2016; Approved Staff's request for postponement to October 13,

2016[K. Tovo/L. Poole-2nd](11-0).

.

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1st 2nd 3rd

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Andrew Moore **PHONE:** 512-974-7604

EMAIL: andrew.moore@austintexas.gov

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BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1. The proposed zoning should be consistent with the purpose statement of the district sought.
- 2. Zoning changes should promote compatibility with adjacent and nearby uses.
- 3. Zoning should promote a transition between adjacent and nearby zoning districts, land uses, and development intensities.
- 4. The proposed zoning should promote consistency and orderly planning.
- 5. The proposed zoning should be consistent with the goals and objectives of the City Council.

Generally, the subject tracts are located between a designated Core Transit Corridor, a local collector street and an established neighborhood. The location is appropriate for office and/or residential uses. General office district is the zoning designation for offices and selected commercial uses predominantly serving community or citywide needs, such as medical or professional offices.

This particular area is unique in that the topography offers some additional protections or buffers to the single family neighborhood at the top of the hill from the busy, fast paced traffic on Lamar Boulevard. The rezoning to GO-MU-V will provide a transitional area where office and residential uses (potential affordable housing) can blend between single use districts therefore promoting compatibility and orderly planning and is supported by the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Site Characteristics

The subject tracts are located on a hillside that slopes downward, west. Tracts 1 & 2 are developed with 8 structures ranging from one to two stories. The properties, combined, have a total of seven driveways that access Shoal Creek Boulevard. Some driveways are long and made of concrete or asphalt while others are short with angled parking spaces constructed of brick pavers. Per a site visit, there are at least 3 trees of significant (most likely Heritage) size, located on Tract 1. There appears to be some topographic constraints as there is a difference of 56 feet between the highest and lowest elevations across the three Tracts.

Impervious Cover

The Tracts are located in an Urban Watershed and therefore the zoning district will determine the impervious cover limits. The GO zoning district allows up to 80% impervious cover. In scenarios where conflicting regulations are presented, the most restrictive impervious cover limit applies.

Comprehensive Planning

The subject tracts are located in the Judges Hill District of the Downtown Austin Plan. The Plan provided no recommendations for this district or this specific property.

The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan indicates that land use decisions should support a compact and connected development that is in line with the Growth Concept Map. The Growth Concept Map identifies the area of rezoning to be within a Regional Center and in close proximity to an Activity Corridor.

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Regional Centers are the most urban places in the region and therefore should promote greater density of people and jobs and should provide a mixture of uses that will create a destination that offers living, work, retail, culture, recreation and entertainment experiences.

Activity Corridors should provide connections throughout the city and region that link activity centers through multiple transportation options and should be characterized by a variety of activities and building types.

If the redevelopment uses the density bonus provision allowable in vertical (V) mixed use (MU) project the affordable housing requirement would be 10% of the total units at 80% median family income (MFI).

Environmental – Mike McDougal, 512-974-6380

- 1. The site is not located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. The site is located in the Shoal Creek Watershed of the Colorado River Basin, which is classified as an Urban Watershed by Chapter 25-8 of the City's Land Development Code. It is in the Desired Development Zone.
- 2. Zoning district impervious cover limits apply in the Urban Watershed classification.
- 3. According to floodplain maps there is a floodplain adjacent to the project location. Based upon the location of the floodplain, offsite drainage should be calculated to determine whether a Critical Water Quality Zone exists within the project location.
- 4. Standard landscaping and tree protection will be required in accordance with LDC 25-2 and 25-8 for all development and/or redevelopment.
- 5. Trees will likely be impacted with a proposed development associated with this rezoning case. Please be aware that an approved rezoning status does not eliminate a proposed development's requirements to meet the intent of the tree ordinances. If further explanation or specificity is needed, please contact the City Arborist at 974-1876. At this time, site specific information is unavailable regarding other vegetation, areas of steep slope, or other environmental features such as bluffs, springs, canyon rimrock, caves, sinkholes, and wetlands.
- 6. This site is required to provide on-site water quality controls (or payment in lieu of) for all development and/or redevelopment when 8,000 s.f. cumulative is exceeded, and on site control for the two-year storm.

DSD Transportation – Bryan Golden, 512-974-3124

- TR1. Additional right-of-way maybe required at the time of subdivision and/or site plan.
- TR2. Joint access may be required at the time of site plan for the 3 lots along Shoal Creek Blvd to mitigate approaching traffic from Lamar/15th.
- TR3. A TIA may be required at the time of site plan.
- TR4. According to the Austin 2009 Bicycle Plan Update approved by Austin City Council in June, 2009, a bicycle facility is not identified on Shoal Creek Blvd.

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Water and Wastewater – Bradley Barron, 512-972-0078

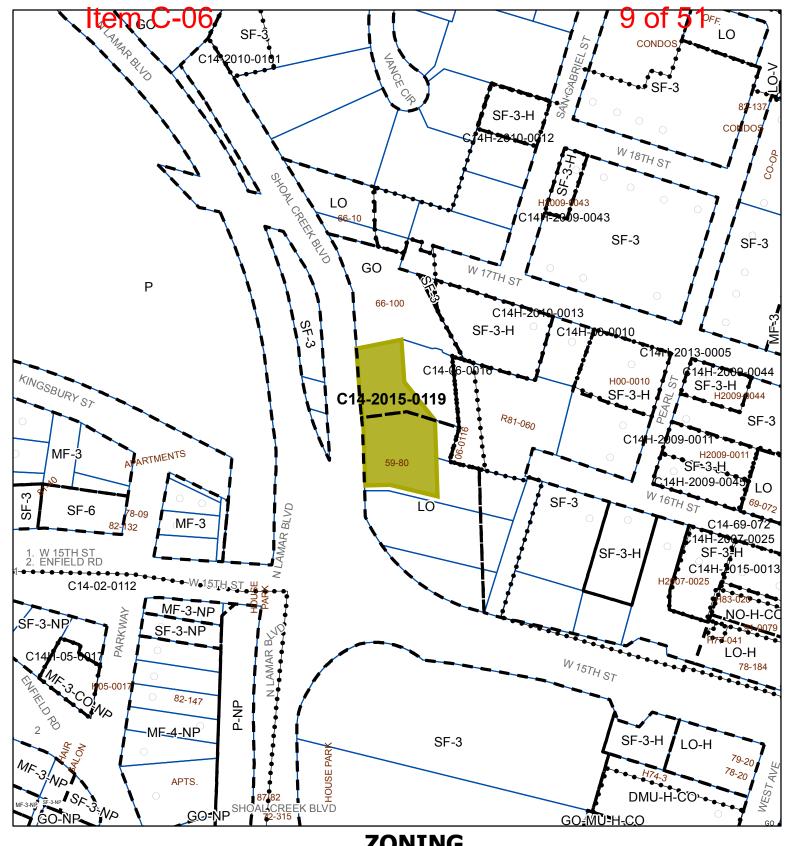
The landowner intends to serve the site with City of Austin water and wastewater utilities. The landowner, at own expense, will be responsible for providing any water and wastewater utility improvements, offsite main extensions, water or wastewater easements, utility relocations and or abandonments required by the proposed land use. Depending on the development plans submitted, water and or wastewater service extension requests may be required. Water and wastewater utility plans must be reviewed and approved by the Austin Water Utility for compliance with City criteria and suitability for operation and maintenance. All water and wastewater construction must be inspected by the City of Austin. The landowner must pay the City inspection fee with the utility construction. The landowner must pay the tap and impact fee once the landowner makes an application for a City of Austin water and wastewater utility tap permit.

Storm Water Detention

At the time a final subdivision plat, subdivision construction plans, or site plan is submitted, the developer must demonstrate that the proposed development will not result in additional identifiable flooding of other property. Any increase in storm water runoff will be mitigated through on-site storm water detention ponds, or participation in the City of Austin Regional Storm water Management Program if available.

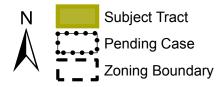
Site Plan and Compatibility Standards – Rosemary Avila, 512-974-2784

- SP1. Site plans will be required for any new development other than single-family or duplex residential.
- SP2. Any new development is subject to Subchapter E. Design Standards and Mixed Use. Additional comments will be made when the site plan is submitted.
- SP3. Any development which occurs in an SF-6 or less restrictive zoning district which is located 540-feet or less from property in an SF-5 or more restrictive zoning district will be subject to compatibility development regulations.
- SP4. The site is subject to compatibility standards. Along the east property lines, the following standards apply:
 - No structure may be built within 25 feet of the triggering property line.
 - •No structure in excess of two stories or 30 feet in height may be constructed within 50 feet of the triggering property line.
 - No structure in excess of three stories or 40 feet in height may be constructed within 100 feet of the triggering property line.
 - · No parking or driveways are allowed within 25 feet of the property line.
 - · A landscape area at least 25 feet wide is required along the property line. In addition, a fence, berm, or dense vegetation must be provided to screen adjoining properties from views of parking, mechanical equipment, storage, and refuse collection.
- SP5. Additional design regulations will be enforced at the time a site plan is submitted.



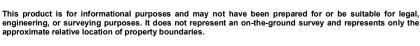
ZONING

Case#: C14-2015-0119



Feet

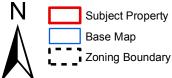
200





Created: 7/21/2016





1' = 400'

AERIAL MAP - EXHIBIT B

ZONING CASE#: C14-2015-0119 ZONING CHANGE: LO & GO to GO-MU-V LOCATION: 1507, 1509,1511, 1601,

& 1603 Shoal Creek Blvd

SUBJECT AREA: 0.889 acres



This map has been produced by the Communications Technology Management Dept. on behalf of the Planning Development Review Dept. for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

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Case Number:

PETITION

C14-2015-0119

Date: 8/17/2016

Total Square Footage of Buffer: 302090.3198

Percentage of Square Footage Owned by Petitioners Within Buffer: 33.55%

Calculation: The total square footage is calculated by taking the sum of the area of all TCAD Parcels with valid signatures including one-half of the adjacent right-of-way that fall within 200 feet of the subject tract. Parcels that do not fall within the 200 foot buffer are not used for calculation. When a parcel intersects the edge of the buffer, only the portion of the parcel that falls within the buffer is used. The area of the buffer does not include the subject tract.

TCAD ID	Address	Owner	Signature	Petition Area	Precent
0211010725	1609 SHOAL CREEK BLVD 78701	AUSTIN EQUITY INVESTORS LTD	yes	43432.25	14.38%
0112000319	1700 SAN GABRIEL ST AUSTIN 78701	BLAKESLEE JULIE D & JOHN WILLIAM SHELBY SPONG	yes	3702.87	1.23%
0211010707	W 16 ST 78701	CITY OF AUSTIN	no	1924.36	0.00%
0112000401	N LAMAR BLVD 78701	CITY OF AUSTIN	no	35661.74	0.00%
0211010720	SHOAL CREEK BLVD 78701	CITY OF AUSTIN	no	46214.32	0.00%
0211010601	SHOAL CREEK BLVD 78701	CITY OF AUSTIN	no	49684.91	0.00%
0211010719	1501 SHOAL CREEK BLVD 78701	CITY OF AUSTIN	no	18830.74	0.00%
0211010708	903 W 16 ST 78701	GOSSELINK PAUL & MARGARET L	yes	1.71	0.00%
0211010731	908 W 16 ST 78701	HORNADAY WALTER & RAINA	yes	33977.61	11.25%
0211010726	1001 W 17 ST 78701	TASSIN JAY & BRENT DANNINGER	yes	20243.14	6.70%
Total				253673.65	33.55%

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John Scott Neal

4501 Ridge Oak Dr. Austin, TX 78731 jsneal@gmail.com / 512-516-2468

REVISED ON 8-16-16

RE: C14-2015-0119 - Neal Mixed Use Rezoning - .89 Acre

8-16-16 UPDATE STATEMENT ON NEIGHBORS: I can honestly say that my family has gone to extreme efforts to address our neighbors concerns and try to enter into a Restrictive Covenant agreement with them. We have delayed this hearing numerous times in hopes that we would be able to hash out the details. We have spent tens of thousands of dollars on architects and attorneys. I have spent hundreds of hours drafting and redrafting a restrictive covenant with them (were up to 13 drafts now), only for them to torpedo the whole document 1 week before our last scheduled Planning Commission hearing and then turn around and inaccurately accuse us of walking away.

Even after they did that, We tried to find a solution by asking them to draft up their own document that would make them 100% happy, and they said ok ... well to this day (2 months after they rejected our mutually worked on agreement) we have still not received their proposed version of the RC agreement. This has been an extremely frustrating and ultimately devastating process to go through just to try and offer sensible mixed use and affordable housing on my downtown family property. One begins to wonder if this has all been a delay tactic on their part.

Ultimately I know my neighbors are good people that are just trying to do whatever they can to protect their interests, but enough is enough and I must move towards the conclusion of this process. Even though I like all of them, It has become clear to us that we will not be able to address every single concern our neighbors have thought up. This is a zoning case, not a site plan review, but they wanted us to spend money to design a building that my family is not ready to design or build just so that they could figure out all of their fears and have us address them. You will see below that we have tried and tried to address their concerns, But it does appear that our agreement was eventually done in by their fear of the unknown, un-designed and un-built.

A NOTE FROM THE OWNERS

Dear Planning Commissioners and City Council Members,

Our zoning case for property located on the 1500/1600 block of Shoal Creek will be on the agenda shortly, and I want to convey to you the details about our case so that you may better understand our reasoning for rezoning in addition to our efforts to find a compromise solution with our neighbors to address their concerns.

WHO WE ARE

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My name is John Scott Neal and I am born and raised in Austin. My parents first purchased this piece of property about 40 years ago, and made it the family home. In those 40 years, we have grown our original home into a small family business of Multi-Family residences. We have 16 units with a total of 24 bedrooms on the subject property. However we currently are zoned a combination of GO and LO and our residential use is no longer permitted.

WHY THE ZONING CHANGE?

As we look towards the future of our property and our business viability, it has become clear to us that we need more flexibility to adjust to the changing Austin market. We started this zoning application over a year ago with the intention of obtaining a consistent zoning on all of our property that would allow us to rent out a few of our units as office space, without losing the ability to return them to residential units. Under current zoning, this is not allowed. As we moved further down this process, and heard our neighbors concerns, we decided that we would need to reduce the size of our rezoning area and give the neighbors a greater buffer. We felt that a smaller GO-MU zoning would achieve this goal without antagonizing the neighbors as they were already living next to a GO zoned property that was used as residential... and so our uses would be fairly consistent with what we currently have. After complaints from our neighbors about not offering affordable housing on a future development, we decided to add a VMU component to our zoning request so that affordable housing could be incentivized. Unfortunately, in Austin affordable housing is difficult without these incentives, but Austin really needs more affordable housing. We have worked extensively with City staff, site planners, and the neighbors themselves to try and come to a consensus on what this property would potentially look like when developed. We are confident that our proposal is in line with the city's desire for increased housing and mixed use, and the neighbor's desire for limited height and impact.

WE REACHED OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORS

Before official notice of our zoning application was sent out, we reached out on 8/31/15 to Judges Hill Neighborhood Association (JHNA) to give them a heads up and a quick synopsis of the case and open up dialogue. We became aware of minutes for a JHNA meeting that took place on 11/9/15 in which our case was voted on without us knowing. We were <u>not</u> given notice that our case would be heard at this meeting, yet JHNA took up our zoning case and let our next door neighbors present their opposition to our case and then the association took a vote... again, all without our attending or giving us the opportunity to present our case prior to voting (It should also be noted that only residential members who have paid dues for the last 180 days are permitted to vote in JHNA).

Following this discovery, I emailed JHNA again on 1/15/16 asking to let us present our zoning case at the next meeting in Feb. In their response, the President of JHNA denied my request to present to the entire neighborhood, and told me that I would have to negotiate and reach a compromise with my 3 adjoining neighbors before she would allow me to present to the neighborhood and obtain JHNA support. We reached out to our 3 neighbors for a formal meeting on 1/20/16, and have been trying to satisfy their evolving demands ever since. Judges Hill did seem to have a change of heart in late May, after word of my complaints on not being able to meet had gotten out, and they informed me that I would finally be permitted to discuss my case at a neighborhood meeting. Given that Judges Hill had made my entering into an agreement with my direct neighbors a condition of their support, we decided to hold off on a final presentation to the neighborhood until we were able to reach a formal agreement

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with our direct neighbors. Unfortunately, just before our scheduled planning commission meeting in June, my neighbors ended up having a change of heart on entering into the agreement we had worked so hard on, and so I still have been unable to meet judges hill's precondition for obtaining their support.

Before our scheduled planning commission hearing in June (postponed by the commission), I emailed every owner in Judges Hill, and told them that I would be more than happy to discuss the details of my case or just listen to their concerns. 1 person in the neighborhood called me. So as of today, I have only been able to negotiate a compromise and speak my case with my direct neighbors, and the 1 person that was kind enough to hear me out. I have a feeling that I'm going to see a lot of people that I have not been able to speak or present my side to at this upcoming hearing.

THE EFFECTS OF THIS ZONING CHANGE?

DENSITY: The increase in zoning does offer some increase in our buildable area and FAR that will allow us to better utilize our downtown property and offer more affordable housing and office. It also allows us to increase our height by about 8 ft to 48 ft for a small section along 15th and Shoal Creek. This increase in height along Shoal Creek actually provides that the increase in density can be located on the Shoal Creek frontage, and away from the Single Family houses at the back of the site. It also allows for a uniform reduced setback on Shoal Creek, which allows us to bring the building closer to the street and away from the neighbors' houses. Under our current zoning, we would have to push the building back towards the SF houses to reach our maximum buildable area, FAR, and also abide by the larger front street setbacks and reduce height. Its important to stress again that due to compatibility the increase in height from the new zoning will only slightly change the height of the building and only on the lower elevation LO frontage section along Shoal Creek.

The bottom line: Strangely enough, the increase in zoning results in a building that is further away from the neighbors. The increase in maximum height, as discussed above, does not noticeably impact the neighbors due to the downhill topography of the site and existing compatibility code.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: This zoning change to MU-VMU will first and foremost allow us to keep our existing residential use on our property. It would also result in a development that is able to maintain and potentially increase the number of residential units in the downtown and central core area. And it does this while also providing the economic incentives needed to offer our desperately needed affordable housing. Under our current zoning, any development would be forced to eliminate all residential and offer an office-only product. The current zoning is not in line with the city's desire to increase available affordable housing in the city, but our new zoning would be.

TRAFFIC: Our property is located on a short section of Shoal Creek Blvd that lies on major transport roads at 15th and North Lamar. This small stretch of Shoal Creek lies parallel to Lamar Blvd, and is only accessible from Lamar and 15th street. The only property that separates our property from these major transportation corridors is City of Austin right-of-way land. We have NO access to Judges Hill neighborhood or 16th street, and anyone wanting to drive from our property to Judges Hill must first drive on Lamar, then connect to MLK or 15th to finally drive up the hill and turn onto a Judges Hill neighborhood road. This means that the density on our site will not significantly affect traffic in Judges Hill Neighborhood or any other minor streets. Our ability to offer MU/VMU instead of only office will better distribute our traffic throughout the day instead of on normal office rush hours.

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NOISE: Our current use on this site is residential, so noise issues caused by a residential and office development under the new zoning are not significantly different from what they are today. Our site lies down in a valley along two major transportation corridors well below our neighbors and Judges HIII. This downhill location and road noise already act as a noise buffer to our neighbors. We did offer to make a number of concessions to the neighbors, listed below, to help address their noise concerns. This includes eliminating amplified music on their sides of any buildings we build, sound walls, and eliminating certain uses that are particularly noisy. However, the neighbors ended up stepping away from that agreement, and have yet to present me with their counter proposal. So, as of today, no agreement has been made. Even so, noise in this downhill location is not a significant concern.

HEIGHT: (See Attached Drawing) We are surrounded by 3 types of properties: Right-of-way vacant land; Office buildings; and Single family houses located on a hill above us. The sites topography is sloped and bluffed so that all buildings now and in the future on this site are downhill from the Single family houses in Judges Hill. Any potential buildings built under GO-MU-V zoning on this site will be of similar use and size as the other office buildings on Shoal Creek, and our downhill location from the SF-3 houses means that our maximum building height will be below their ground level. When you also apply compatibility to our site, the end result is a height maximum limit that minimally affects the neighboring SF housing uphill from us.

CONCERNS OF NEIGHBORS and COMPRAMISES

We have worked extensively with our neighbors to try and address their fears and concerns. Unfortunately they have said they are unwilling to enter into an agreement that we have worked on for months. However below you will see a list of the items that we agreed to address in exchange for their support:

WE HAVE OFFERED TO:

- -Abide by current compatibility height restrictions for 25 years
- -Set aside large green space areas
- -Reduce balcony sizes
- -Limit amplified music
- -Limit the location of signage
- -Limit the size of our pool
- -Install sound barriers and fences
- -Prohibit access to 16th Street
- -Restrict cooling towers
- -Bury our utility lines

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-Plant new trees as buffers to residential property

We have also offered to remove the following use to help alleviate the neighbors concerns:

WE HAVE OFFERED TO:

-Remove the following uses:

- Group Residential
- Mobile Home Residential
- Retirement Housing (Large Site)
- Retirement Housing (Small Site)
- Restaurant (Limited)
- Urban Farm
- Communication Service Facilities
- Community Events
- Congregate Living
- Convalescent Services
- Convention Center
- Daycare Services (commercial)
- Detention Facilities
- Family Home
- Maintenance and Service Facilities
- Major Utility Services
- Military Instillations
- Parks and recreation Services (General)
- Parks and recreation Services (Special)
- Postal Facilities
- Private Primary Education Facilities
- Private Secondary Educational Facilities
- Public Primary Educational Facilities
- Public Secondary Educational Facilities
- Residential Treatment
- Safety Services

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From: Dustin Hixenbaugh

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 1:57 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: Support for Case #C14-2015-0119

Hello,

My name is Dustin Hixenbaugh, and I am an instructor of Rhetoric and Writing at the University of Texas. I am writing to express my support for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119, which I believe will help relieve some of the troubles young professionals have locating affordable housing in the central Austin area. The case is scheduled to be heard on April 26, 2016.

I have taught classes at UT since 2009, and in that time I have had to move farther and farther away from the university as my family has expanded and the opportunities to live near my place of work on a reasonable budget have contracted. Personally, I would support any effort that made it easier for people to live within a few miles of their work. This is not only a matter of personal convenience, but also of environmental responsibility and community identity. I am sure that this particular case can be accomplished without any undue inconvenience to neighbors, and I wish it had been done several years ago.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information or to elaborate on my support for this case.

Sincerely,

Dusty Hixenbaugh

My home address is 404 Arrow Head, Round Rock, 78681.

--

Dustin Hixenbaugh, Ph.D. Candidate,

Program in Comparative Literature

Assistant Instructor,

Department of Rhetoric & Writing

The University of Texas at Austin

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From: Raymond Weyandt []

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 1:59 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: Letter of support - Shoal Creek zoning case #C14-2015-0119

Good afternoon,

My name is Raymond Weyandt. I have been a resident of Austin for nearly five years, and I currently reside at 5303 Harmon Avenue, #B, Austin 78751.

I am writing today to express my strong support for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119. As a young professional living in the city, and like so many around me, I am convinced that we need more mixed use spaces to alleviate the very serious housing issues facing the city. I believe that approving this case is a step forward in alleviating these issues, and I urge you to approve it without delay. There is a hearing for this case scheduled for April 26, 2016.

With more than 2 million people now living in the greater Austin area, the City of Austin must continue making the right choices for its residents to ensure the highest quality of life for everyone here and alleviate our growing housing crisis. Approving this case is the right decision and accomplishes exactly what we need. I hope that you will consider my support for its approval and make the right decision in April.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me directly if you need more information.

Regards,

Raymond W. Weyandt

--

raymond w. weyandt

214 326 6888

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From: Jennifer Morris

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 2:02 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori] **Subject:** Hearing April 26th

Hi my name is Jennifer Morris. I live at 5404 King Henry Dr in Austin.

I want to voice my support for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119 on Shoal Creek Blvd.

I believe that allowing for GO-MU (General Office and Mixed Use) at this site will help the housing crisis in central Austin, and will do so with little effect to the neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Jennifer

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From: Carolina Castano []

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 2:02 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: support for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119.

Hi my name is Carolina Castano and my address is 5403 Salem Walk Drive Austin, TX 78745

I want to voice my support for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119.

I believe that allowing for GO-MU (General Office - Mixed Use) at this site will help our housing crisis in central Austin, and will do so with little effect to the neighbors.

Thank you,

Carolina Castano

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From: Albright, Alan [

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 2:05 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: rezoning case #C14-2015-0119

Ms. Haase

My name is Alan Albright. I have lived in Austin since 1981. My address is 2908 Glenview, Austin, Texas. My phone number is 512 494 3620.

I am intimately familiar with the property that is involved in this dispute. I have been running along Lamar where the property is located for over 30 years now. I want to express my unequivocal support for the Neals for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119. I have known the Neal family for over three decades. They have been incredible stewards of the property that is at Enfield and Lamar. I have had many friends who have lived in the neighborhood that abuts the property. I cannot imagine any legitimate reason for denying the Neals the opportunity for mixed use.

The property is located reasonably close to the UT campus, where we have already run out of reasonable quality living spaces. I believe that allowing for GO-MU (General Office - Mixed Use) at this site will help our housing crisis in central Austin, and will absolutely no adverse effect to their neighbors.

Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss this issue.

Alan

ALAN D. ALBRIGHT

Partner

T: +1.512.494.3620 | F: +1.512.479.3920 | M: +1.512.230.7092

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From: Sean Malley []

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 2:26 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: case #C14-2015-0119

Dear Ms. Haase,

I am writing to voice my support for case #C14-2015-0119, which will be heard on April 26, 2016.

My name is Sean Malley. I am a nurse at St. David's Medical Center, and I have lived in the Austin area for most of my life. The city has grown tremendously in the last few years, and in that time it has become all but impossible to find an affordable place to live within the city's limits. When I first graduated from college, I was able to live in a modest apartment in central Austin that was close to my work. Recently, I adopted a son, and the extra expenses of having a family have forced me to move farther away from my place of employment than I have ever lived — I spend at least an hour commuting every day.

Rezoning this area of town is a crucial step toward alleviating Austin's housing crisis and enabling people who work hard and raise their families in Austin to actually live in and enjoy the city. I know I am not the only person who is in this situation or feels this way.

Thank you for passing along my support for this case.

Sincerely,

Sean Malley 404 Arrow Head Round Rock, TX 78681 Item C-06 23 of 51

From: Ian Carrico []

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 2:40 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: Support for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119

Tori-

Howdy! My name is Ian Carrico, and I reside here in Austin at 1600 Barton Springs Road #6302. I am writing you today to support the rezoning case #C14-2015-0119. Allowing this space to be used as GO-MU would be a small, but very helpful step in helping Austin fight it's housing affordability crisis— with little to no effect to it's neighbors.

Warmest,

--

Ian J. Carrico

Making the web better, 1ms at a time.

(+1) 512.827.7502

I'm speaking at Velocity | June 20-23, 2016 http://oreil.ly/1VsPX1D #velocityconf Item C-06 24 of 51

From: Scott Percifull

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 2:42 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: rezoning case #C14-2015-0119

Hello Tori,

I am in support of rezoning this property. I have attached my comments with the paperwork associated with the case.

Thank you,

Scott Percifull

Managing Partner Rain on 4th ARJ Entertainment

(512) 751-7905

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From: Rick Luisi []

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 2:47 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: Support of Rezoning of 1507, 1509, 1511, 1601, & 1603 Shoal Creek Blvd

Tori,

I am in support of the request made by J S Neal to rezone the subject property (his family owned property) to allow for continued us of both residential and office. As I understand it, the property is currently grandfathered to allow for residential (SF-3). This would simply allow for that to continue.

Sincerely,

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From: [] On Behalf Of Niall Needham Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 3:10 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori] **Subject:** Case C14-2015-0119

Hello Tori. My name is Niall Needham and I live at 1000 San Marcos Street Apt 239, Austin, TX 78702.

I wanted to write to you regarding case C14-2015-0119 (hearing date 4/26/2016); I wanted to express my support for the General Office/Mixed Use rezoning proposed in this case. I believe that with the current expansive growth in Austin and lack of housing, particularly in this area, that this rezoning would be beneficial to the entire community with little to no downside.

I appreciate you taking the time to listen.

Thanks,

Niall Needham

415-640-9655

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From: Robin S [] On Behalf Of Robin Sommers

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 5:23 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori] Subject: C14-2015-0119

Ms. Haase:

I am Mr. Robin Sommers. I reside in Austin at The Four Seasons at 98 San Jacinto Blvd., unit 2801.

The purpose of my email to you is to express support of re-zoning Case # C14-2015-0019. I understand the hearing date for this re-zoning application is April 26, 2016.

In my opinion the site in question should be zoned for General Office and Mixed Use (GO - MU).

I do not believe a GO - MU zoning of this site will have a negative impact on the neighbors in the area. The GO - MU zoning of this site will, however, have a positive effect with respect to the housing crisis in central Austin.

Yours truly,

Robin Sommers

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From: Brenda Preston []

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 5:52 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: Fwd: Case C14-2015.0119

> My name is Brenda Preston Robison, my address is 5015 Timberline Drive, Austin, TX. I'm writing you to reinforce the rezoning request for the property on Shoal Creek Blvd. The rezoning would allow the property to be maintained for residential use, but also allow construction of affordable housing that is needed in that area.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

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From: Courtenay Paris []

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 8:24 PM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: Support For Rezoning Case #C14-2015-0119

Hi Tori,

My name is Courtenay Paris and my address is 1183 Ridgeway Drive, Austin TX 78702. I want to voice my support for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119. I believe that allowing for GO-MU (General Office - Mixed Use) at this site will help our housing crisis in central Austin, and will do so with little effect to the neighboring community.

Thanks,

Courtenay Paris

214-621-2559

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From: Lloyd []

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 7:30 AM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

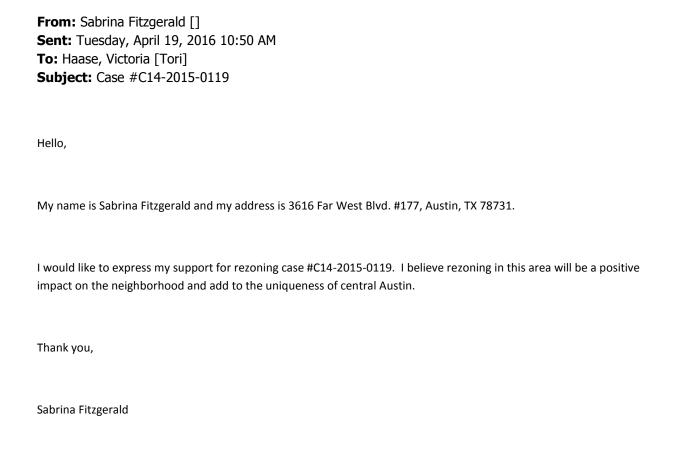
Subject: Case Number: C14-2015-0119

I am Harold L Figg and live at 1003 W MLK JR BLVD Austin 78701 and I support re-zoning case #C14-2015-0119. The re-zoning will have minimum impact on my neighborhood. General Office - Mixed Use at this location is a positive change that will add to available housing in central Austin.

hasta la victoria, Siempre!

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From: John Horton []

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 11:00 AM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: Rezoning Case #C14-2015-0119

Ms. Haase:

My name is John Horton and I would like to express my support for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119.

I own property in this neighborhood and I believe having a mix of uses specifically General Office - Mixed Use (GO-MU) would be good for the neighborhood. This change of use would have very little if any impact on the residents of this neighborhood and would be good for Austin.

Thank you for making my comments known at the rezoning hearing on April 26, 2016.

Thank you,

John Horton

--

John C. Horton III 903 Nueces Street Austin, TX 78701 512-477-9966 office 512-476-2172 fax Item C-06 33 of 51

From: Philip Wiley

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 11:58 AM

To: Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Cc: Rousselin, Jorge; Guernsey, Greg

Subject: Zoning case C14-2015-0119, and the point one percent.

Tori,

This note is intended to make clear my support for rezoning case #C14-2015-0119, and some reasons behind it.

John Scott Neal and I are partly to "blame" for some of Austin's biggest problems and challenges - urban sprawl - and the average price for a downtown front door knob. We both own significantly underutilized property on the downtown grid => where there are a lot more jobs than housing options. We would like to be part of the solution, supporting the compact and connected vision, but can not currently, even though it would benefit 99.9% of Austin residents and voters. The .1% deserve a voice too, so let's objectively look at the case.

As you stand at my corner on San Gabriel / MLK with a zoning map, you will have to look hard to find a code that matches current use, or historical intent, so it is not a criticism of anyone to say it does not surprise me that John's zoning code needs to be updated. We both have property on blocks adjacent to major transit corridors (him Lamar, me MLK), in the transition zone between the primarily "single" family use interior blocks, and surrounding much more intensive / dense uses. To clear up a misconception, the area is not primarily single family use just the interior blocks are. The majority of blocks are in the transition zone, per the attached map. The overwhelming majority of residents live in the transition zone on land uses denser than single family. With the exception of Vance Circle none of the transition zone blocks are primarily single family..

My property at 1802 San Gabriel was the site of the Vance homestead, where the first home was built in the area around 1860. The Vance subdivision was created in 1947, at a time when that home was still on "my" lot, and and 17 other lots were created.. Per others more informed than myself about such things, it is clear from the subdivision deed set backs, restrictions and map that the intent was to (1) keep the part of the hill north of Mr. Neal undeveloped; (2) create a low density residential block (Vance Circle), (3) maintain residential use for the property (4) protect the privacy and views on "my" lot, and (5) give those not on Vance Circle lfexibility to achieve density beyond single/two family use if the environment ever changed such that it made sense. The subdivision deed did not limit height, but did limit properties on Vance Circle to one or two families. My property and the three adjacent to me on MLK had no limitation on families, so I could sell land to them changing the set backs, without affecting "compatibility", or we could recombine all four properties into one. It all makes sense if you consider who was making the rules and the location of the lots relative to MLK and property across the street on San Gabriel, which they had no control over. Mr. Neal's property is close to the edge of the old Vance estate, there were no limitations on the number of families or height on his property either, that was the situation in 1947, and the only thing that has changed since is City zoning codes and what they have allowed at various times, well not the only thing...

First a lot at the edge of the Vance estate was "rezoned" with agreement of the other subdivision members to become a parking lot, which allowed for an office building to be built next to Mr. Neal's property, changing that deal related to items (1) & (3) above. Then...

A piece of property across from me, which extends from the corner of MLK / San Gabriel, to 18th / Pearl, was redeveloped in 1985 from a single family .94 acre estate into a row house style condominium complex, 33K SF under roof, with a private alley where headlights line up perfectly with my front door and living room. It is uphill, and "towers" over my single story home, which was designed not to have curtains in the living room, as the light is already diffused by a deep overhang. What is the solution? Curtains and landscaping for compatibility have worked fine for years, as it was

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already a compatible use given it's location and surroundings. Mr. Neal is not asking for the right to "tower" over anybody, or anything close to it. Then...

UNO - University Neighborhood Overlay - bordering MLK. Sure the UT tower view is not what it was, but so great for compact and connected!

The case is strong for Mr. Neal to maintain rights to use his property for commercial use, and protect the residential use that has been in place for many years. If rezoning is the only way to codify both and give him a reasonable / compatible height limit, then so be it.

I have lived in Judges Hill for 24 years, worked hard in many ways to improve the area, and care deeply about it.. The people living on the interior primarily single family blocks want to keep their blocks that way, and we will support them. We can not, however, support people trying to prevent others in the transition zone from exercising reasonable land uses and that is not what the majority of transition zone property owners or residents want. We know that from talking with them, through secure / anonymous Helios polling of qualified participants, and are working to help make sure that voice gets more consideration in the process.

Mr. Neal has 1.56 acres. I have .85, which when combined with my three adjacent neighbors on MLK, could become a 1.64 acre site. These are not the only opportunities in Judges Hill, just two of the biggest, and best chances to help contribute to the solution. Without impacting the established pattern, without deviating from area form already in place, or already approved to be built, like UNO. If an area downtown, next to a large green space like Pease Park, blocks from the heart of our public transportation system, a short bike or walk to so many jobs, is not the first place to look for and act on the low lying "compact & connected" fruit, then where?

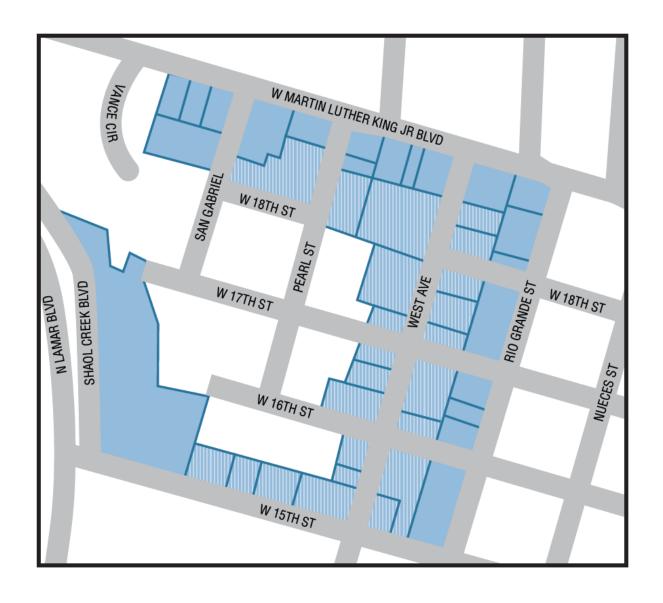
Thanks all for your hard work in support of making a great city even better!

Respectfully,

Philip Wiley

1802 San Gabriel, 78701

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From: Andrew Gill

Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:06 AM

To: Oliver, Stephen - BC; Schissler, James - BC; bc-james.shieh.@austintexas.gov; Kazi, Fayez - BC; Mathias, Jayme - BC; McGraw, Karen - BC; Nuckols, Tom - BC; Thompson, Jeffrey - BC; Seeger, Patricia - BC; Vela, Jose - BC; bc-michael.wilson@austin.texas.gov; Zaragoza, Nuria - BC; PineyroDeHoyos, Angela

- BC; White, Trinity - BC **Cc:** Haase, Victoria [Tori]

Subject: C14-2015-0119 - Neal Mixed Use Zoning

June 28, 2016

Mr. Stephen Oliver, Chair

City of Austin Planning Commission

Dear Chairman Oliver & Commissioners,

I write to inform you that Pease Park Conservancy opposes the proposed zoning change C14-2015-0119 – Neal Mixed Use Zoning. The tracts of land associated with this case are located along Shoal Creek Boulevard adjacent to Pease District Park.

Pease Park Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation, beautification, and support of Pease Park for the enjoyment of Austin and its future generations. A zoning change to this property presents a number of concerns that could threaten the natural environment and function of Pease Park.

The entire Shoal Creek Watershed, and this section in particular, are prone to major flooding events. An increase in impervious cover will only exacerbate the problem and the drastic slope of the hillside further compounds our concern. The 2015 Memorial Day Floods caused catastrophic damages. House Park, directly across West 15th from the property, required nearly a half of a million dollars in repairs and businesses down stream spent millions to reopen their doors to the public.

The properties on Shoal Creek Boulevard are also significant contributors to Austin's urban tree canopy and include a number of heritage trees. These trees not only play an important role in combatting the urban heat island effect, but also in stabilizing the hillside and mitigating the risk of erosion. The urban forest plays a vital role in the health of our city and we're concerned that a zoning change on this heavily forested site will have a major impact on Austin's urban canopy. Given the vegetation and tree coverage this site also supports surprising wildlife in Austin's urban core.

The West Campus neighborhood has experienced significant development in recent years and is now the most densely populated neighborhood in the Austin with over 35 residents per acre. The

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proposed zoning change will add to the traffic problem on Lamar Boulevard. Gridlock on Lamar already poses accessibility and safety concerns for patrons wanting to visit the park, this zoning change will undoubtedly add to the problem.

Rezoning this property to GO-MU leaves open the possibility for dramatic changes that will inevitably affect the park, the Shoal Creek Greenbelt, and the entire Lamar/Shoal Creek corridor. We hope that you will help ease the effects of this redevelopment by opposing an outright zoning change to GO-MU which opens the possibility for an overly intense development.

Thank you for your service.

Andy Gill

Executive Director

Pease Park Conservancy

262-370-2629

Facebook | Twitter | www.peasepark.org

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PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

This zoning/rezoning request will be reviewed and acted upon at two public hearings: before the Land Use Commission and the City Council. Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to attend a public hearing, you are not required to attend. However, if you do attend, you have the opportunity to speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

During its public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date, or may evaluate the City staff's recommendation and public input forwarding its own recommendation to the City Council. If the board or commission announces a specific date and time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days from the announcement, no further notice is required.

During its public hearing, the City Council may grant or deny a zoning request, or rezone the land to a less intensive zoning than requested but in no case will it grant a more intensive zoning.

However, in order to allow for mixed use development, the Council may add the MIXED USE (MU) COMBINING DISTRICT to certain commercial districts. The MU Combining District simply allows residential uses in addition to those uses already allowed in the seven commercial zoning districts. As a result, the MU Combining District allows the combination of office, retail, commercial, and residential uses within a single development.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, visit our website: www.austintexas.gov/planning.

✓ I am in favor comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled this site will help our housing crisis in central Austin, and will do so Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the date of the public hearing, and the Case Number and the contact person contact person listed on the notice) before or at a public hearing. Your ☐ I object DatePublic Hearing: Feb 9, 2016, Planning Commission If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to: March 24, 2016, City Council mes Romstrong Your address(es) affected by this application Contact: Tori Haase, 512-974-7691 with little effect to the neighbors. Daytime Telephone: 512-243-7740 Case Number: C14-2015-0119 Signature Planning & Zoning Department Your Name (please print) Austin, TX 78767-8810 4601 Ridge Oak Dr listed on the notice. James Armstrong Victoria Haase City of Austin P. O. Box 1088 Comments:

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Moore, Andrew

From: Jo Sue Howard

Sent: Monday, July 25, 2016 8:48 AM

To: Moore, Andrew

Cc: Tovo, Kathie; Harden, Joi

Subject: Neal Mixed Use Rezoning - C14-2015-0119

Attachments: Updated CTC Shoal Creek area.pdf; Judges hill from Pease Park wide.jpg; Slope that

places Shoal Creek Blvd uphill of Lamar from overhead.jpg

Andrew.

I appreciate your taking over this case for Tori and want to voice neighborhood concerns about the possibility of a VMU overlay for the Neal property on Shoal Creek Blvd (SCB). After hearing that staff might consider a request from the applicant to grant the overlay despite the fact that the property isn't on a Core Transit Corridor (CTC), we became very concerned.

When all of the commercial properties on our CTCs (Lamar and part of MLK) were "opted in" to VMU, we were assured by staff and officials that no other properties would be considered eligible. That was important to us for many reasons, including speeding cut-through traffic on our streets when Lamar backs up, frequent flooding along Lamar, and erosion problems along the fragile slope above the subject property that roughly parallels Shoal Creek Blvd. and Lamar. Based on an analysis from adjacent Vance Circle, that slope is made up of Del Rio clay layered with Buda limestone and topped with canyon rimrock, a Critical Environmental Feature. Together these put it at risk for slippage if too much of it of the area just below is excavated or stripped of its mature tree canopy. The policy decision that SCB properties wouldn't be VMU-eligible was confirmed in a map (1st attachment) that Greg Dutton emailed to us and copied to Jerry Rusthoven two years ago.

The Neal properties now have 7 (!) driveways and various surface parking lots off SCB, itself a narrow (roughly 30 feet) street that is daily over-parked and has only one egress, that on to Lamar, very near the MLK light. Since VMU allows the retention of existing impervious cover and the elimination of front and side setbacks, caps on building coverage, FAR, and the number of units, it means more traffic struggling to exit into the backup on Lamar just south of that MLK light. We have already requested help with speeding cut-through traffic from cell phone apps directing cars and trucks from a clogged

Lamar across our area via MLK. Accidents and regular near-misses are worst at the intersection of W. 17th Street and West Avenue, where parked cars and a hill reduce visibility and make crossing West Avenue dangerous. In a neighborhood with lots of kids on bikes and skateboards it's especially worrisome. Eliminating setbacks while lifting the lid on building coverage, FAR, and the number of units means more cars and traffic on a street that's already a problem for us.

Tori said staff felt the city-owned land between SCB and Lamar appears as a narrow island on a flat map, but in reality it's a forested hillside that serves as a physical barrier between the two streets. The second attachment is a photo from Pease Park where you see the building just north of the subject peeking above the wooded slope that separates the two streets.

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Above the flood plain portion of the subject site, the grade difference between Lamar and the Neal properties along SCB and Lamar averages about 15 feet and is as great as 26 feet (3rd attachment). The peak elevation on SCB is 33 feet above Lamar, north of which the smaller street quickly slopes back down to Lamar. So it's not a logical place for an engaging pedestrian storefront thoroughfare. People will continue walking along flat Lamar and Pease Park rather than climbing a steep hill only to descend it back to Lamar several hundred feet thereafter. The cul-de-sac you see at the bottom of the photo doesn't connect to Lamar, and the Neals were denied a request for access to W. 15th Street. The intersection is already dangerous for pedestrians who, as they come under the 15th Street bridge, have to cross a forked ramp that enters Lamar from 15th.

I apologize for taking your time as you pick up casework from Tori, but we just heard about this Thursday and want to be sure you and your fellow staff members have a good understanding of local conditions and concerns before you consider bending the rules to place VMU in our neighborhood where we feel it isn't allowed and would cause numerous problems. We've worked well with staff over the years in supporting the DAP and working toward CodeNEXT and depend on your adherence to the assurances we've received along the way toward the many compromises we've helped foster.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Andrew. We appreciated your talents in supporting C.M. Martinez and so look forward to working with you in your current capacity.

Sincerely,

Jo Sue Howard President Judges Hill Neighborhood Association

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Austin, TX 78767-8810

P. O. Box 1088

Andrew Moore

Planning & Zoning Department

City of Austin

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