Item C-27 1 of 30

PLANNING COMMISISON SITE PLAN WAIVER REQUEST REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER:

SP-2016-0008C

PLANNING COMMISSION

HEARING DATE: January 10, 2017

PROJECT NAME:

Lofts at 12th Street

ADDRESS:

2724 E. 12th Street

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN:

Chestnut

COUNCIL DISTRICT #:

1

APPLICANT:

Big Red Dog (Mike Reyes) (512) 669-5560

2010 E. 5th Street Ste. 100

Austin, TX 78702

AGENT:

San Antonio Dream Homes, LLC. (Shravan Parsi) (281) 862-5294

701 Brazos Street Ste. 1620

Austin, TX 78701

CASE MANAGER:

Rosemary Avila

Phone: 512-974-2784

Rosemary.avila@austintexas.gov

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

The applicant is proposing to construct a five story multi-family residential development (30 units total) with associated site improvements. The site is 0.60 acres, located in the MLK TOD, and zoned TOD-NP-CO (Transit Oriented Development-Neighborhood Plan- Conditional Overlay).

DESCRIPTION OF WAIVERS:

The applicant is requesting a waiver from § 25-2-1063, "a person may not construct a structure 25 feet or less from a property in an urban family residence (SF-5) or more restrictive zoning district." The applicant is requesting a 5' setback on the west property line. The applicant is proposing 11 parking spaces, a transformer pad (10' x 10'), and bicycle parking that are encroaching into the 25' compatibility setback.

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the waiver request. The proposed multi-family building is not within the 25' compatibility setback. A portion of the site is within a Critical Water Quality Zone, there is a drainage easement, and the site frontage is 39' wide, therefore the applicant is unable to build on the southern portion of the lot. Adjacent neighbors to the west of the site have signed support letters for the proposed parking within the 25 foot setback (see letters attached in the back-up material). The site complies with other compatibility standard requirements such as lighting and screening.

COMPATIBILITY:

Section 4.2.10 of the MLK TOD (Transit Oriented Development) states Compatibility Standards, as stipulated of Article 10 of Chapter 25-2 of the LDC, shall apply to all properties within the TOD District.

Section 25-2-1051 states that "Article 10 Compatibility Standards apply if a use in a SF-6 or less restrictive zoning district is located on a property across the street from or adjoining a property on which a use is permitted in a SF-5 or more restrictive zoning district is located."

The proposed development is subject to Compatibility Standards on the west property line due to the adjacent properties zoned SF-3-NP.

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Lofts at 12th Street

Per the Design Regulations schedule in 25-2-1067(H) of the LDC, the setback for the driveway is 0 feet, due to the E. 12th street frontage being 39 feet. Since the parking area is over 125 feet wide, the back part of the lot cannot fall under the Design Regulations schedule and is subject to the 25' standard Compatibility setback.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

September 13, 2016 Postponement by Planning Commission

October 11, 2016 Postponement by Neighborhood
October 25, 2016 Postponement by Applicant
November 8, 2016 Postponement by Neighborhood

December 13, 2016 Postponement by Planning Commission

PROJECT INFORMATION:

SITE AREA	26,136 square feet	.60 acres
EXISTING ZONING	TOD-NP-CO	
WATERSHED	Boggy Creek	
WATERSHED ORDINANCE	Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance (Urban)	
TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS	Not required	
CAPITOL VIEW CORRIDOR	None	
PROPOSED ACCESS	E 12 th Street	
	Allowed/Required	Proposed
FLOOR-AREA RATIO	2:1	1.28:1
BUILDING COVERAGE	95%	32.28%
		7
IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE	95%	68.5%
	95%	68.5%

EXISTING ZONING AND LAND USES:

	ZONING	LAND USES
Site	TOD-NP-CO	Multi-family Residential
North	TOD-NP-CO	Common Area
South	E 12 th St, then P-NP and Railroad	E 12th St, then Railroad and Parks/Greenbelt
East	Railroad then P-NP	Railroad then Parks/Greenbelts
West	SF-3-NP	Single Family, Duplexes

ABUTTING STREETS:

Street	Right-of-Way Width	Pavement Width	Classification
E 12 th Street	56'	40'	MNR 4 (Minor Arterial- 4 Lane)

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS:

African American Cultural Heritage District

Business Association

Austin Heritage Tree Foundation
Austin Independent School District

Austin Neighborhoods Council

Bike Austin

Chestnut Addition Neighborhood Assn.

Chestnut Commons HOA

Chestnut Neighborhood Contact Team

Chestnut Neighborhood Revitalization Corp.

Del Valle Community Coalition

East Austin Conservancy

Friends of Austin Neighborhoods

Friends of Chestnut Neighborhood Plan

Friends of Emma Barrientos MACC

Homewood Heights Neighborhood Association

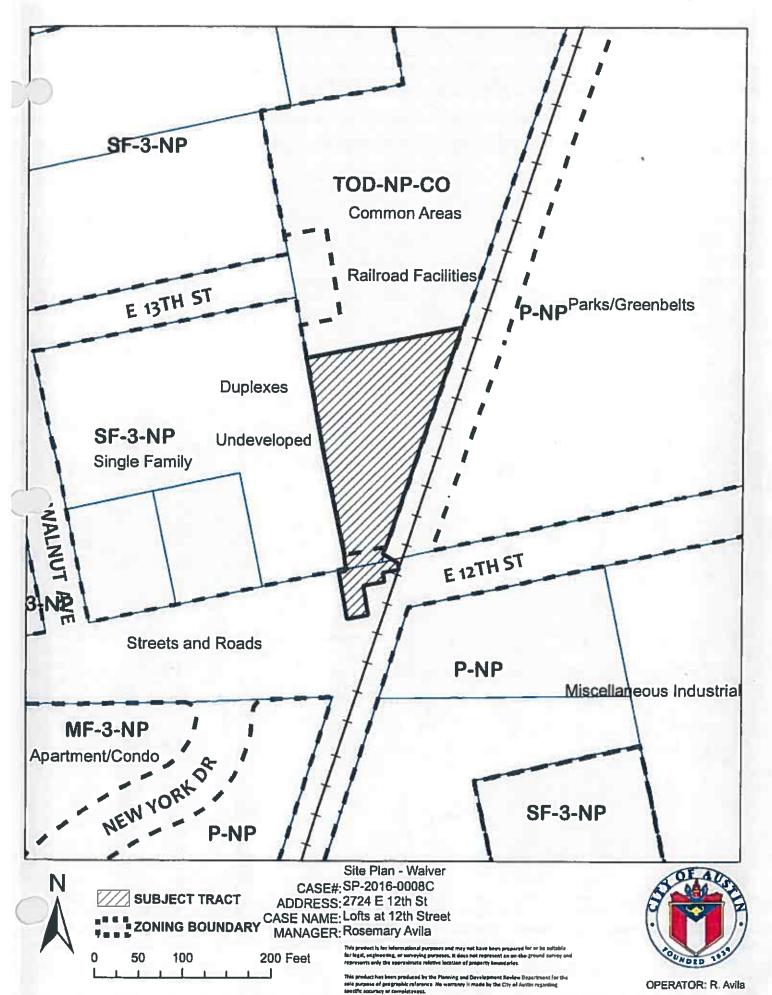
Preservation Austin

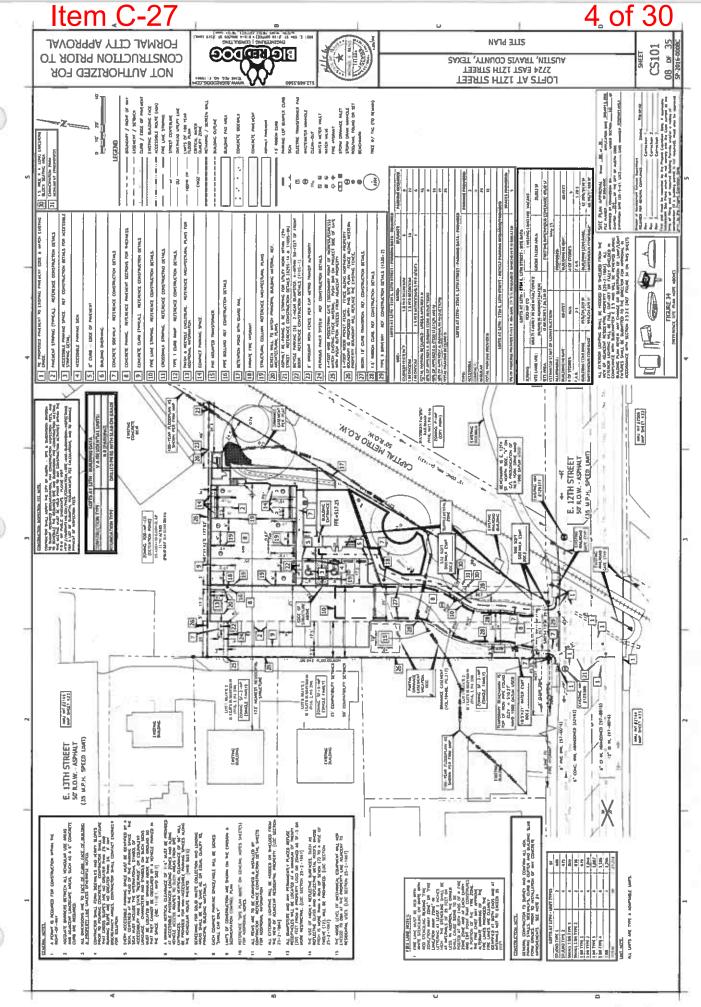
Rosewood Neighborhood Contact Team

SEL Texas

Sierra Club, Austin Regional Group

United East Austin Coalition







MICHELE R. LYNCH 512.404.2251 mlynch@mwswtexas.com

September 6, 2016

Rodney Gonzales
City of Austin Development Services Dept.
505 Barton Springs Road, 1st Floor
Austin, Texas 78704

Re:

East 12th Street Lofts (the "Project"); Planning Commission – Waiver to 25' Compatibility Setback; 2724 E. 12th Street (the "Property")

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

As representatives of the owner of the above stated Property we respectfully submit this letter requesting a waiver to the 25 foot setback requirement in Austin's Land Development Code § 25-2-1063.

LDC § 25-2-1081 (A) states the Land Use Commission may waive a requirement of this article if the Land Use Commission determinates that a waiver is appropriate and will not harm the surrounding area. However, any Land Use Commission Waiver may not reduce a required setback to less than five feet (LDC § 25-2-1081 (B)).

The Property is in the MLK Transit Oriented Development Regulating Plan ("MLK TOD"), and compatibility is triggered by the property owners to the west that are outside of the MLK TOD.

We are requesting a 5' setback on the western side of the Property, which will allow for bicycle and vehicular parking as well as a transformer, as shown on Exhibit "B". We offer the following reasons to demonstrate that this waiver is appropriate and will not harm the surrounding area:

- 1. The 25' compatibility setback is triggered by properties that are zoned Single Family Residence Neighborhood Plan (SF-3-NP), all of which have offered support of this setback waiver; see Exhibit "B" for triggering properties and please find the compatibility support letters attached hereto under separate cover.
 - a. The developer of the Project has agreed to provide screening in between the parking on the Property and the properties to the west.
- 2. The Property is constrained by Railroad Right-of-Way, floodplain, and a drainage easement. Therefore, development is only allowed on certain portions of a small tract. The proposed building was shifted away from the adjacent neighbors, but some of the parking must encroach in the 25' compatibility setback; see Exhibit "C".

Because this compatibility setback waiver request (from 25' to 5') is appropriate, will not harm



September 6, 2016 Page 2

the surrounding area, is not less than 5', and is supported by the property owners triggering compatibility, we respectfully request staff support.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or the project engineer.

Sincerely,

Michele R. Lynch,
Michele R. Lynch

MRL:kw **Enclosures**

Shravan Parsi, Owner cc:

Cliff Kendall, Big Red Dog

Ron Pope, Architect

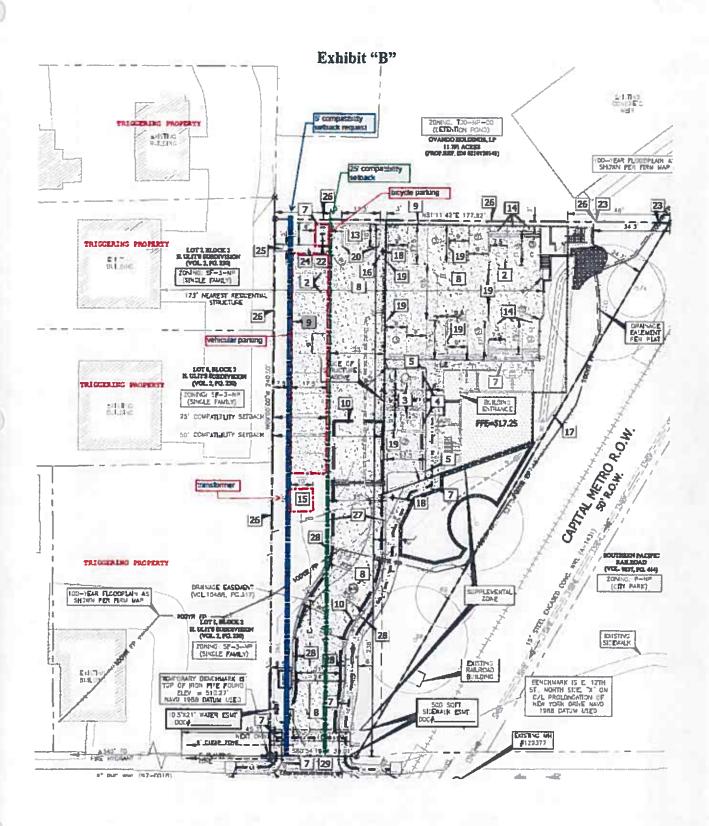
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Exhibit "A"



September 6, 2016 Page 4



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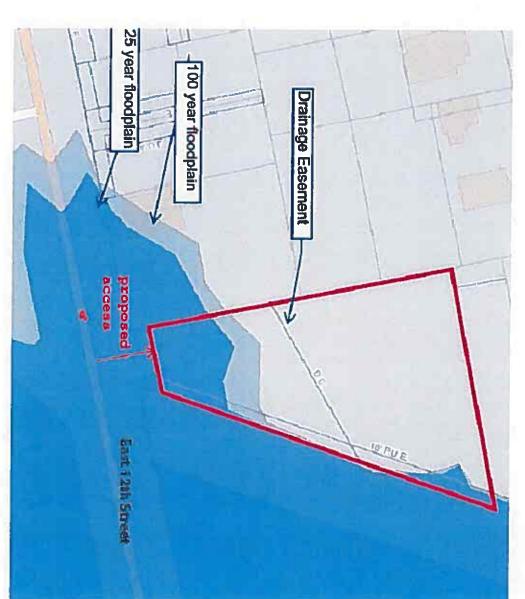


Exhibit "C"

MicHELE R. LYNCH 512.404.2251 mlynch@mwswtexas.com

I am a landowner with property, which abuts a .6-acre lot located at 2724 East 12th Street. As such, Napa Ventures, the owner of the above-mentioned lot, approached me about their desire to develop the site into a residential transit oriented development. I have seen preliminary plans for development, and as a neighboring property owner I would be willing to support the construction of a 5-story residential building as well as parking within 25 feet of the property adjacent to my property.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

	R
Signed:	Kay fac son di.
Date:	1-21-2015
Name:	Ray Jackson S.
Address:	29 20 Cast 12 Km St.
Phone:	512 628 0259
Email:	

I am a landowner with property, which abuts a .6-acre lot located at 2724 East 12th Street. As such, Napa Ventures, the owner of the above-mentioned lot, approached me about their desire to develop the site into a residential transit oriented development. I have seen preliminary plans for development, and as a neighboring property owner I would be willing to support the construction of a 5-story residential building as well as parking within 25 feet of the property adjacent to my property.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Signed:	afrand Razian
Date:	7/24/15
Name:	Afrand Razian
Address:	2709 E. 13th St Unit F
Phone:	832-876-1051
Email:	

I am a landowner with property, which abuts a .6 acre lot located at 2724 East 12th Street. As such NAPA Ventures, the owner of the abovementioned lot, approached me about their desire to develop the site into a residential transit oriented development. I have seen the preliminary plans for development, and as a neighboring property owner I would be willing to support the construction of a 5-story residential building as well as parking within 25 feet of the property adjacent to my property.

2709 East 13th Street, Unit D. Austin, TX 78702

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Address:

4159908974

Phone:

Email:

I am a landowner with property, which abuts a .6 acre lot located at 2724 East 12th Street. As such NAPA Ventures, the owner of the above-mentioned lot, approached me about their desire to develop the site into a residential transit oriented development. I have seen the preliminary plans for development, and as a neighboring property owner I would be willing to support the construction of a 5-story residential building as well as parking within 25 feet of the property adjacent to my property.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

	Je Je	
Signed:		
Date:	7-22-15	
Name:	Paul Pita	
Address:	2709 E. 13th Street Austin TX 78702	-
Phone:	774-238-8586	
Emall:	——————————————————————————————————————	

I am a landowner with property, which abuts a .6 acre lot located at 2724 East 12th Street. As such NAPA Ventures, the owner of the above-mentioned lot, approached me about their desire to develop the site into a residential transit oriented development. I have seen the preliminary plans for development, and as a neighboring property owner I would be willing to support the construction of a 5-story residential building as well as parking within 25 feet of the property adjacent to my property.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Signed:

Date: 1//2//5

Name:

Mike Bickford

Address:

2709 E 13 13 th St. Cln; + E

11.

Email:

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Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Signed:	All
Date:	Jonnifer Hollers
Name:	
Address:	2709 E 13th St. 1 78702
Phone:	(512)826 3040
	1 00 0
Email:	

16. of 30 Item C-27 FORMAL CITY APPROVAL CS101 08 or 35 **600** CONSTRUCTION PRIOR TO AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS LOFTS AT 12TH STREET
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PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

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Council. If final approval is by a City Council's action, there is no appeal of A zoning ordinance amendment may include a conditional overlay which would include conditions approved by the Land Use Commission or the City the Land Use Commission's action.

An interested party is defined as a person who is the applicant or record owner of the subject property, or who communicates an interest to a board or commission by:

· delivering a written statement to the board or commission before or during the public hearing that generally identifies the issues of concern (it may be delivered to the contact listed on a notice); or

appearing and speaking for the record at the public hearing;

- occupies a primary residence that is within 500 feet of the subject property or proposed development;
 - is the record owner of property within 500 feet of the subject property or proposed development; or
- is an officer of an environmental or neighborhood organization that has an interest in or whose declared boundaries are within 500 feet of the subject property or proposed development.

notice of appeal must be filed with the director of the responsible department no later than 14 days after the decision. An appeal form may be available from the responsible department.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, our web site: www.austintexas.gov/devservices.

Austin, TX 78767-8810

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PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

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Austin, TX 78767-8810

Rosemary Avila

P. O. Box 1088

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PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

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During a public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date, or recommend approval or denial of the application. 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.

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A zoning ordinance amendment may include a conditional overlay which would include conditions approved by the Land Use Commission or the City Council. If final approval is by a City Council's action, there is no appeal of the Land Use Commission's action.

An interested party is defined as a person who is the applicant or record owner of the subject property, or who communicates an interest to a board or commission by:

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For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, risit our web site: www.austintexas.gov/devservices.

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Item C-27

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Avila, Rosemary

From:

Leslie Padilla 🐗

Sent:

Monday, September 12, 2016 2:17 PM

To:

Avila, Rosemary

Subject:

Planning Commission: SP-2016-0008C

Dear Rosemary -- I am a homeowner whose property is within 500 feet of the application in SP-2016-0008C. I have also registered as an interested party in this case. I am writing concerning the waiver to setback requirements that was requested by the developer. I mailed in my written comments, but I am concerned they might not reach you in sufficient time prior to the Planning Commission meeting.

In my written comments, I made the following points:

- 1. The 5-story building that the developer is proposing is three stories higher than any nearby building. I believe that the closest building in height is the new development at Alexander and MLK. That development is a good distance from the proposed 12th st condos and is only 3 or 4 stories. A 5-story building immediately adjacent to a neighborhood comprising mostly single- and 2-story homes is incompatible and must therefore only be built with the appropriate setbacks. As proposed, the higher-story residents will be able to see into nearby homes and yards, including mine. The Privacy that currently exists with existing compatible development will be destroyed with a five-story building without appropriate setbacks.
- 2. The developer has not given appropriate consideration to the traffic/parking impacts that are very likely to result on 13th street. Because there appears to be insufficient parking as part of the development, residents are likely to seek to park on 13th street.
- 3. The developer is not properly respecting the history of the 12th street parcel, which served Austin's African-American community as Emancipation Park for a number of years.

In addition to the comments I included in what I mailed to you, I would add:

- 1. The developer has not shown good cause for a waiver of setbacks.
- 2. The letters that the developer has provided in support of the waiver are over one year old. It is not established that the people who signed those letters still own nearby property.

I hope to attend the meeting tomorrow night, but if I cannot be there, I trust these comments will be included in the record.

thank you,

Leslie Padilla

October 24, 2016

Dear Austin Planning Commission:

We are writing to voice some concerns about a proposed structure on the 2724 E 12th Street parcel of land. It is currently zoned TOD-NP-CO and a site plan application has been submitted for a 5-story building.

In January of 2016, neighbors of the bordering property, 2709 East 13th Street, signed a document to grant Easement Access to residents of the proposed structure in the event of fire and flooding (See Attachment A). In exchange for signing the document, neighbors were promised \$1,666.00 in compensation from the developer. The caveat was that the incentive would only be paid if 100% of the neighbors signed said document. So, many neighbors signed under pressure-to avoid being the only individual(s) preventing consenting neighbors from receiving compensation. The developer stated that if he did not get 100% compliance, he would instead get approval for easement access from owners of the land across the retention pond.

In addition, during this time period, the developer of the property gave the impression that all neighbors fully supported the proposed structure, but as we began communicating, we found that this was not, in fact, the case. Many of us have concerns about the proposed structure, including, but not limited to:

<u>Flooding</u>-a portion of the proposed structure is in a hundred-year flood plain. Though there have been assurances by the developer that this will not be an issue, the recent heavy rains have left that parcel of land under feet of running water multiple times in just the last year. Additionally, these rains have flooded Units E and F, a situation that would be worsened by such a large amount of additional impervious coverage as is proposed for the neighboring lot.

<u>Parking-</u>the proposed number of parking spaces for the building is roughly equivalent to the number of units. Unless every unit is occupied by a single individual, there will be a need for overflow parking. Because parking is not allowed on that part of East 12th Street, there are concerns about how the parking shortage will manifest in the neighborhood.

<u>Historical Significance-</u> this property was not initially zoned for 5-stories and a condo. It was single family zoning - regular 2/3 story houses. But the city and neighborhood supported re-zoning after the initial developer made three promises at city hall:

- 40% affordability
- Walkability via the property from 12th to retention pond so folks can walk to MLK station south of 12th.
- Memorial to Emancipation Park

However, the current iteration of the proposed project is:

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- 10% affordability
- no walkability via 12th.
- a memorial plaque

While we do understand, and encourage the need to, develop on that parcel of land, we urge the Planning Commission to take these concerns into account and help us work with the developer to build a structure that will honor past promises and plan accordingly for the environmental impact upon the neighborhood in which we live.

Thanks for your time,

Afrand Razian 2709 E. 13th Street, Unit F

Jennifer Hollars 270 East 13th Street, Unit B

Catherine Mas 2709 East 13th Street, Unit A Item C-27 24 of 30

City of Austin Case # SP-2016-0008C Planning Commission October 24, 2016

Dear Planning Commission -

As the Chair of the Chestnut NPCT I urge you not to grant the waiver sought for "The Lofts at 12th" Located at 2724 E. 12th St. Our large and diverse NPCT voted to oppose this waiver unanimously at our last meeting on Oct. 18.

The Chestnut NPCT has been involved with this property since early 2011 when the previous owner proposed a SMART housing development on the site. A brief timeline of our involvement in the case is as follows:

Q1 2011 – The Chestnut NPCT engages with owner of 2724 E. 12th to establish conditions of support to rezone the site from TOD – Low Density Residential (max 9 units / 2 stories) to TOD – Live Work Flex (max 30 units / 5 stories)

11/8/2011 – The Chestnut NPCT supports a zoning change at the Nov. 8, 2011 Planning Commission Meeting (Case C14-2011-0130.SH) on the conditions that:

- 40% of the units are affordable at 80% MFI
- The development recognizes the site's former use as Emancipation Park
- The development connects to the rest of the MLK TOD via a walkable route The Planning Commission approves the case. The previous owner pledges to make 18 of 30 units (60%) affordable (See 'Original NPCT Letter' in Backup).

2013 – 2724 E. 12th is sold to the current developer Shravan Parsi. During the sale the leaders of the NPCT met and communicated the previous conditions of neighborhood support for rezoning multiple times (See Email A in Backup). The previous owner Pegasus Planning also clearly communicated the neighborhood conditions for the previous rezoning to Mr. Parsi (See Email B in Backup).

3/2016 – The CNPCT engages current owner Shravan Parsi again about his plans for the site and he claims he is unaware of the previous conditions of NPCT support when the site was rezoned. In a face-to-face meeting between the NPCT and Mr. Parsi's team they refused to commit to any of the conditions the NPCT had previously established when the property was rezoned at the Planning Commission.

As it is clear from this sequence of events above, the NPCT advocated for a significantly more dense zoning with the previous owner under explicit conditions. The property was then sold to the current owner who will honor none of those conditions. A project that was supposed to bring 18 affordable units to our neighborhood will now bring 3 (by the TOD density bonus requirement).

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Mr. Parsi bought this property knowing the Chestnut NPCT's conditions for the development when it was rezoned. He seeks to gain significant financial benefit from that rezoning while not fulfilling any of the previous conditions the NPCT worked hard to establish.

After facing opposition at the 9/13/16 Planning Commission Meeting his team finally offered to write a restrictive covenant ensuring a memorial to the site's former use as Emancipation Park. He has refused, however, to make any more units affordable or develop a walkable connection to the rest of the TOD. His logic is simple to understand. While the memorial might cost him a few thousand dollars, designating any more units as affordable won't make him enough money to repay investors the return he has already promised them (see email C).

Mr. Parsi met with NPCT leaders multiple times before he promised any investors money and purchased this property. He knew if he had to get our consent for anything in developing this project that it would be a risk to his investment. Granting this waiver brushes aside all the effort our neighborhood has spent working on affordability and respecting the legacy of our community. Granting this waiver gives Mr. Parsi and other developers like him encouragement to continue ignoring and exploiting neighborhoods in search of profits. Please don't set that precedent.

We wish to revise the restrictive covenant Mr. Parsi's team drafted to incorporate not only the memorial to Emancipation Park but also that:

- Any development on this site have at least 40% of the units be designated affordable at 80% MFI
- His team develops a walkable connection to the rest of the MLK TOD

This is the compromise the NPCT made when this site was rezoned and we ask that compromise to be honored.

Sincerely Cavan Merski Item C-27 26 of 30

From: Jennifer Hollers [

Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 6:36 AM

To: Avila, Rosemary

Cc: Catherine Mas; Leslie Padilla; Michele Rogerson Lynch **Subject:** 2709 E 13th Neighbor Retractions re: 12 St Loft Prject

Rosemary,

Having watched the most recent footage from the planning commission meeting in December concerning the 12th St Lofts, the adjacent neighbors have chosen to retract our approval for the project.

We feel we were misled and uninformed. One strong example is surrounding the height of the building and the fact that somehow our approval gives power to raise it beyond the restricted 40 feet. This was not our desire and, on more than one occasion, several neighbors asked about lowering the height and were told that it was not possible. We did not know that one of the forms that we had signed somehow waved that restriction and we are very unhappy to have been misled about this particular subject.

We still have serious concerns about parking, flood issues, construction noise, emergency easement, and general quality of life for us and the neighborhood should this project move forward.

We have decided, in the end, that we would not enjoy being neighbors to a project that appears to put monetary gain over the integrity of the neighborhood.

You will find 4 or the 6 neighbors (66.6%) have sent in their retraction letter below. We are still waiting on two, but one lives out of town (he has asked to send his in electronically and has strong objections about the project) and the other is unresponsive (though has voiced agreement that he does not desire the height, pedestrian access, etc.).

Thank you, 2709 E 13th owners Units A, B, D, and F

12/21/2016

To all parties involved in the approval of the 12 Street Lofts Project:

May this letter serve as my retraction of all waivers and consents that I have previously signed for the 12th Street Lofts to use my private property for emergency easement or waive any variances on the adjacent property.

Catherine Mas Printed Name

Owner of property, 2709 e 13th St Vnit Z Adjacent Neighbor to Project

12/21/2016

To all parties involved in the approval of the 12 Street Lofts Project:

May this letter serve as my retraction of all waivers and consents that I have previously signed for the 12th Street Lofts to use my private property for emergency easement or waive any variances on the adjacent property.

Printed Name

Owner of property, 2709 e 13th St #1, B Adjacent Neighbor to Project

12/	

To all parties involved in the approval of the 12 Street Lofts Project:

May this letter serve as my retraction of all waivers and consents that I have previously signed for the 12th Street Lofts to use my private property for emergency easement or waive any variances on the adjacent property.

Printed Name

Owner of property, 2709 e 13th St , # \infty Adjacent Neighbor to Project

12/21/2016

To all parties involved in the approval of the 12 Street Lofts Project:

May this letter serve as my retraction of all waivers and consents that I have previously signed for the 12th Street Lofts to use my private property for emergency easement or waive any variances on the adjacent property.

Afrand Razian

Printed Name

Owner of property, 2709 e 13th St unit F Adjacent Neighbor to Project