

**Heldenfels, Leane**

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**From:** Burkhardt, William - BC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** Heldenfels, Leane  
**Subject:** FW: Board Of Adjustment Alternate Members

**Importance:** High

Leane,  
There was a minor typo in my letter, would you please use this text if it becomes part of the record?  
Thanks!  
William

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Honorable Mayor Adler,

The current City of Austin Board of Adjustment has been operating since July of 2015 without it's full complement of Alternates, all of whom are Mayoral appointments. Since the Board is a 75% super-majority Board, this situation has caused difficulty and frustration on more than one occasion – as you may know, missing one voting member requires an applicant to receive 9 votes of those attending 10 members for a variance – this occurs when two members are absent, with one replaced by our only Alternate, and which situation has been happening with unfortunate regularity lately.

The remedy for this circumstance has been for the Board to offer postponements, but that's often a hardship for an applicant seeking resolution of an issue, or for opposition parties required to reschedule their appearances; the issue becomes more significant with interpretation cases where a considerable amount of energy and resources are expended by all involved parties, with projects on hold or citizens inconvenienced pending a resolution.

We've recently been told our one Alternate isn't available for the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, and that one additional member will again be absent; with a large number of previous postponements from lack of a full Board on that agenda, the Board itself is now suffering a hardship.

Considering the possible delay with new Council Member appointments – and on that note, we've received a specific letter of resignation from Councilmember Zimmerman's appointee, Michael Benaglio, who plans to step down for personal reasons after the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting – it's important for the function of the Board to have all its Alternate members; please consider this a formal request of the Board to expedite the appointments of at least one, or both, additional Alternate members.

Sincerely,

William Burkhardt, AIA  
Chair

William Burkhardt  
Boards and Commissions

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