OLD AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
604 West 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701
www.originalaustin.org

5 March 2020

Austin Mayor and City Council
City Hall
Austin, TX 78701

RE: 1000 N Lamar Blvd – floodplain variance request (20200312-047)

Dear Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA), I am writing you to express our support of the flood plain variance requested in agenda item 20200312-047.

OANA supported the original entitlements requested for this property in 2016 because we understood that the proposed development would not cause a net increase flooding.

While we agree with staff that approving this variance request would allow the placement of a parking area within the 25-year and 100-year floodplains of Shoal Creek, we believe that denying the variance would create more risk to the public as well as the tenants and guests at 1000 N Lamar. Cars parked on the first floor at 1000 N Lamar are:

- Not parked unprotected on neighboring streets; and,
- Not at risk of being swept into Shoal Creek during a flood event (because they are protected by steel fences).

Without the use of the 1st floor parking spaces it is anticipated that many, if not all, of the cars currently using this space would be parked at parking meters or surface lots all within the Shoal Creek floodplain. This would cause greater flood related risk to the public than if the cars are allowed to be on the 1st floor, retrained by steel fencing.

So while we encourage the applicant to reduce the need for these parking spaces, we believe that denying this request will result in more public risk, not less. We urge you to support this variance request.

Thank you for your consideration of this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Ted Siff, President

xc: Kevin Shunk, City of Austin Watershed Protection
Sam Kumar, Journeyman Group
Alice Glasco, AG Consulting

Board of Directors

Ted Siff, President **Ray Canfield, Treasurer** **Blake Tollett, Secretary** **Michael Portman**
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