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PAZ

PO Box 41232 Austin, TX 78704

August 24th, 2020

Re: C14-2020-0067
3504 South First St.

Dear Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro tem Garza and Councilmembers,

The Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Association (GENA) respectfully requests a postponement of **C14-2020-0067**, concerning 3504 South First Street, from this Thursday, August 27, 2020 to the October 1, 2020 meeting of the City Council.

This case was originally scheduled for the Planning Commission at the end of July but was postponed at the request of GENA and the adjacent neighbors at 707 Cardinal Lane Condominiums. It will now be heard August 25, 2020 at the Planning Commission.

This case deserves the utmost consideration, inspection and review as this proposed project would destroy 30 plus protected Heritage trees which have occupied this property for hundreds of years. These trees are a vital part of the urban canopy and help create the beautiful natural environment which make our neighborhood such an attractive place to live.

GENA understands from discussions with the Slate development team that the Austin Transportation Department is currently studying how traffic could move in and out of this proposed development safely. The intersection at Cardinal Lane and South 1st. Street is challenged by the already existing stoplights at Lightsey and South Center St., the lack of a turn lane on South 1st and the narrowing of Cardinal Lane as it intersects South 1st. Traffic and safety issues at this intersection have been a concern for many years. These issues must be reviewed and addressed before a development of this size and density is allowed to proceed.

As GENA and the 707 Cardinal Lane Condo Board are volunteer organizations, we do not have the manpower or resources to prepare our case for Council in the one day window between the Planning Commission meeting and the City Council meeting. While many in our neighborhood have access to internet, there is still a significant population that cannot afford it. Many of our neighbors rely on the Twin Oaks Library at S. 5th St. and Mary St. for internet access and with it closed are not able to participate in the discussion. GENA has done its best to get information to our membership with the new constraints of the COVID situation and even held a specially called ZOOM meeting with neighborhood association members, nearby neighbors and the Slate /Suttle development team to get better informed on the proposed development.

We are currently reprinting our meeting signs with instructions on how to access our virtual neighborhood association meetings and hope to have an even larger turnout at our regularly scheduled general membership meeting on September 28, 2020. The City Council meeting date of October 1, 2020 will allow us to have our regularly scheduled meeting and one more opportunity to clarify the questions and concerns that plague this project as currently proposed.

Thank you for considering this postponement request. If you need any additional information please contact me at president@gena.org or Monica Guerrero at zoning@gena.org.

Marshall Davis, President
Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Assn.