# Clark, Kate

HPD

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**From:** margaret monreal

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:37 AM

To: Clark, Kate

**Subject:** C-2020-0044 Saxon Acres Residential rezoning

\*\*\* External Email - Exercise Caution \*\*\*

#### Dear Ms Clark,

I am writing to OPPOSE the zoning change request of the above reference parcel and in support of my neighbors and Montopolis community leaders who also oppose this zoning request.

For many years now, Montopolis has been called the "up and coming" neighborhood for property listings. We know this new development will not be affordable. A listing just posted for a new home at 616 Montopolis Dr for \$649K. While change, for the most part, is good, let us not look past the wishes of the community to keep Montopolis affordable.

The property owners have made no effort to include the community in their development plans. They have made little to no attempts to contact us or attend meetings regarding their plans. A change in the zoning allowing condos and town homes is not what we need in Montopolis!

Mayor and city council members, please do the right thing and stand with us to help Montopolis residents stay in their homes by decking the zoning change request.

Sincerely,

Margaret Monreal

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### People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources

To: Mayor Adler and City Council Members Harper-Madison, Garza, Renteria, Casar,

Kitchen, Flanningan, Pool, Ellis, Tovo & Alter

From: Susana Almanza, Director & Janie Rangel, Board Chair – PODER

Date: December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Subject: Deny Rezoning of 316 Saxon Lane & 6328 El Mirando (C14-2020-0044)

The Austin City Council can launch an important and sustained response to racism and inequalities that have caused displacement and gentrification in low-income and communities of color. Please <u>deny</u> the rezoning of 316 Saxon Lane & 6328 El Mirando Street (called Saxon Acres-C14-2020-0044). Respect the Montopolis community's Valid Petition.

Communities of color and low-income communities are confronting the cumulative impacts of racism in land use, public health, economic crises, and on top of environmental and climate risks. Communities of color and low-income communities must have a determinative say in decisions affecting their health and welfare, to correct longstanding racist systemic practices that have deprived people of the right to determine their own economic, political, and cultural futures, and to address racial, ethnic, and income-based inequalities.

## Clark, Kate

**From:** Fred McGhee

Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:57 PM

To: Clark, Kate

**Subject:** Saxon Acres Rezoning Item #69 -- 316 Saxon Lane & 6328 El Mirando Street -- CASE:

C14-2020-0044

#### \*\*\* External Email - Exercise Caution \*\*\*

Hello Kate,

Please submit the following to the council as part of the backup package:

How has this item made it onto your agenda? The staff report itself points out that there isn't really anything for you to consider: the current proposal consists of vague declarations of "unknown" number of condo units to be built, perhaps with the customary "affordable housing" assurances that we all know don't work.

Please vote no on this zoning change request. It's insulting and premature to increase zoning entitlements at this stage, if ever.

You should know that this developer has conspicuously refused to negotiate a proper Community Benefits Agreement with the Montopolis Neighborhood Association. Everyone knows that this is the only true assurance that any of the "affordable housing" he now claims to be offering via vacuous and non-binding verbal assurances will actually be realized.

The developer's contempt for our neighborhood and its leaders is quite clear: he has placed NOTHING on the negotiating table for us to consider, although his representatives have been busy attempting to defeat the neighborhood's pandemic zoning petition. This is disrespectful and contemptuous of our role as longstanding community members and leaders. Does this individual wish to be part of our neighborhood or does he think he has the right to dictate to us instead?

The bottom line here is simple: the right of Montopolis families to housing and against displacement matters more than this developer's "right" to make profits at our expense. Pretending otherwise is folly.

Vote NO and send a clear message to Mr. Thrower and his other clients that developers seeking zoning entitlement increases in Montopolis have to treat our community with the respect we are due. That means coming prepared to negotiate legally binding agreements that make sure the "community benefits" and not just the profits actually happen. As the indigenous population we know better than anyone what our needs are.

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Fred L. McGhee, Ph.D.
President, Montopolis CDC
www.montopolis.org

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