

From: [Eddie McKenna](#)
To: [Rivera, Andrew](#)
Subject: Speaker Signup
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 2:29:58 PM

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Good afternoon Mr. Rivera,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment and/or speak at the hearing.

1. Eddie McKenna
2. Item Number B1, [NPA-2021-0021.01.SH](#)
3. I am against the proposed rezoning, and I request that the following points be taken into consideration:

East Riverside, East Oltorf, and Southeast Austin have high existing multifamily density. Historically this included some of the most affordable housing options in the Austin urban core.

- *Local and absentee ownership groups have since raised rents, or replaced existing complexes with higher-cost "multifamily" housing.*
- *Addressing public and/or social housing needs by taking over and fixing up existing apartment complexes, old hotels and motels is already part of the city's plan, which I support, including in this neighborhood.*
- *Subsidizing new construction of affordable multifamily housing may be a smarter approach for neighborhoods that have fewer existing apartment complexes.*

Counter-proposal: use this site to provide equally valuable civic services. *The existing site and structures, including open fields, gymnasium, commercial kitchen and more have served and could again serve as a food pantry, emergency and homeless shelter, clothing assistance source, indoor recreation facility, polling place and much more. Services could still be overtly targeted to benefit low-income, high-needs and homeless Austinites, most likely at a lower public cost and with enthusiastic support from neighbors.*

Distribute low-income housing equitably across Austin: *all the city's studies and advocacy indicate this effort should focus mainly on areas west of IH-35, rather than east.*

This is true with respect to questions of race and ethnicity, average household income, even urban planning and urban density itself.

Before a decision can be reached on this proposed change in zoning, I respectfully request more info on a more complete map of proposed subsidized housing construction, all across town, illustrating this commitment to equity in action

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