



June 8, 2021

Via – Email

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I urge you to vote against purchasing the Candlewood Suites on Pecan Park in Williamson County. I have spoken to several of you and during those conversations, I have provided many of the reasons below as to why this location is not suitable for permanent supportive housing:

- Close proximity to a school (942' away),
- No realistic way to provide perimeter fencing,
- Less than 100' from a residential neighborhood,
- Less 40' from several minority owned businesses,
- Lack of food or safety-net services in the area,
- Too far from a transit stop,
- Violates the deed restrictions of the subdivided tract,
- Violates City of Austin zoning ordinances, etc.

Beyond those reasons, I ask you to consider the bigger picture. On February 2, the Williamson County Commissioners Court voted unanimously to request the City of Austin pause the purchase of the Candlewood Suites. Williamson County and the City of Austin need to work together for the success of our citizens and our communities on this and many other topics. In a letter dated May 17, 2021, sent to the entire Williamson County Commissioner's Court, five of you committed to initial steps that would lead to a "framework of collaboration". Some of those discussions have begun and alternatives to the proposed location have been suggested but let me be clear, there is no concurrence from Williamson County on the City's purchase of the Candlewood. The City Council voting to proceed with the purchase of the Candlewood will not only be the antithesis of the spirit of the May 17th letter but will cause severe harm to relations between the two entities.

Additionally, attempting to repurpose a property that would violate the City's own zoning ordinances and deed restrictions, will communicate to the businesses, residents, and the community that City of Austin deed restrictions and zoning ordinances are arbitrarily and capriciously applied. It gives the impression that they are to be followed by others, but the City doesn't have to follow their own rules, demonstrating the edict that "Rules are for thee – not for me."

I ask you to vote NO on agenda item number 89.

Sincerely,

Cynthia P. Long
County Commissioner – Precinct Two

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

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