

**RESOLUTION
BY THE HANCOCK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (“HNA”)**

Whereas, SGI Ventures (the “Applicant” henceforth), with support from the Housing Authority of Austin (HACA), has applied with the State of Texas for 9% tax credits to develop and operate a building containing 100 SRO efficiency rental units (of approximately 451 s.f. each) for permanent supportive housing (“PSH”) on lots at 1004, 1006, and 1008 E39th in the Hancock Neighborhood; and

Whereas, the Hancock neighborhood adopted a resolution during an April 28, 2022, special called meeting to oppose the FLUM amendment and zoning change for the lots at 1004, 1006, and 1008 E39th to change zoning to the highest allowed density (MF-6-NP), which would have allowed a 90 ft structure citing concerns of protecting the FLUM and zoning; density increase, pedestrian safety, and the need for additional time to analyze these issues; and

Whereas, in the same HNA resolution; we expressed our support for both Permanent Supportive Housing and affordable housing in Austin and our neighborhood; and

Whereas, at the May 24, 2022, City of Austin Planning Commission meeting, both the Applicant and HNA provided their positions along with members of the community in favor and in opposition of the zoning change, the Commissioners were not receptive to the opposition's concerns, and unanimously voted in favor of the Applicant’s FLUM Amendment and lower-intensity (MF-4-NP) Zoning change for the lots; and

Whereas, at the Planning Commission meeting, the City Staff recommended a less intense zoning designation (MF-4-NP) capping height at 60 ft, and the Applicant agreed to the limitation and currently proposes a site plan of fewer than 48 ft; and

Whereas, homelessness is a crisis in Austin, and there is an overwhelming need for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) with 4,012 individual PSH SRO units are needed to make homelessness non-recurring in Austin, according to the 2021 ECHO Needs and Gaps Report; and

Whereas, only 1,016 individual PSH units exist or are in the pipeline, leaving a gap of 2,996 individual PSH SRO units; and

Whereas, the Applicant’s plan for 100 PSH units would help close that gap and the location in the Hancock Neighborhood provides ready access to transit networks, retail, medical services, and amenities such as the Hancock Recreation Center and Hancock Golf Course trail.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HANCOCK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION THAT:

To address the homelessness crisis in Austin and add to the inventory of Permanent Supportive Housing Units with the eventual goal of ending homelessness, the Hancock Neighborhood Association makes the following recommendations on the Proposed Cady Lofts (100 rental units of 451 s.f. each) Zoning Change and FLUM Amendment.

Despite many of our original and ongoing concerns, the Hancock Neighborhood Association NO LONGER OPPOSES the Zoning Change and FLUM Amendment and Applicant's TDHCA 9% tax credit application for the following reasons:

1. The proposed zoning change MF-4-NP is less intense than the originally proposed MF-6-NP zoning, providing more compatibility with the existing FLUM plan and adjacent SF-3 zoning.
2. The Applicant has promised to work with HNA and immediate neighbors to take our input during the development of the site plan.
3. The Applicant has 20 years of experience building and operating affordable housing units and has brought in a non-profit consultant from Houston, New Hope Housing, with experience providing PSH SRO housing.
4. SAFE has informed HNA in a signed letter that additional funds are available for PSH in Austin so the Lancaster is no longer in contention with Cady Lofts for funding and can be built regardless of which project is ultimately supported by TDHCA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

To request the City Manager, City Council, and Mayor to address the following:

1. The pedestrian and traffic concerns raised by HNA that are worthy of consideration and essential to the success of the project:
 - a. We ask the City to review the sidewalk and pedestrian safety plan for the area surrounding the proposed development and build sidewalks where necessary to ensure safe and accessible access for the 100 future tenants of the site.
 - b. We ask the City to review the traffic and parking plans for the same area to ensure that there are no concerns for the tenants or nearby residents.
2. HNA recommends that Council add a conditional overlay in addition to the MF-4-NP zoning, expressly limiting height to 50 feet (lowered from the 60 feet allowed by MF-4) in the case an affordable project does not advance and the zoning is instead used for a market-rate development. This would ensure that a market-rate development does not benefit from the granted density requirements secured as part of the FLUM amendment and zoning change for an affordable housing project that removed existing COs added in the 2004 neighborhood plan.

To request the City Manager, City Council, Mayor, Planning Commission, and City Staff to consider the Hancock Neighborhood Association's recommendations related to zoning changes in Austin, having learned from our experience:

1. We ask the Planning Commission to refine the notification process for zoning changes to ensure proper and full notification for these changes, addressing an observed deficiency where outdated and incomplete address information was used to notify residents within 500 ft of the proposed change, denying them full notice of the change.
2. We ask the City Council to amend the Affordability Unlocked ordinance to include the same notification requirements as zoning changes to encourage community engagement and visibility into projects that directly impact land use.
3. We ask the City to proactively work with neighborhoods across Austin's districts to locate and secure properties for PSH units throughout Austin, augmenting the existing process that primarily relies on private developers to identify and secure locations without community input. We believe that collaboration would accelerate the building of PSH units and minimize friction during the planning process.

ADOPTED BY THE HANCOCK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION: June 2, 2022

ATTEST:



Coan Dillahunty
President, Hancock Neighborhood Association