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My name is Malcolm Yeatts. I am the Chair of the East Riverside/Oltorf Combined Contact Team. I am here today to remind Parks Board about the need for recreational facilities in the East Riverside area.

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The East Riverside area is Park Planning Area 12. This Park Planning Area is mainly designated parkland deficient.

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The city recently removed two lakeshore parks from this parkland deficient area. The PARD Maintenance Facility on Lakeshore and the former Youth Hostel were both given to private organizations. The EROC Contact Team was not adequately notified about these changes in park properties.

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Next, we will look at the parks that have been added to the East Riverside area. This slide shows the newest park addition in the East Riverside area, the Royal Crest Pocket Park. This land was dedicated as park in 2021 for

one of the new apartment buildings being built on Riverside Drive. Note the strange shape of the park.

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This is an aerial view of the Royal Crest Pocket Park. This is an example of the abuse of the definition of a park. Developers should not be allowed to claim convoluted shapes as recreational facilities.

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This is the Woodland Pocket Park at Woodland and Royal Crest, also acquired in 2021. It is a residential lot of one third of an acre.

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This is the street view of the Woodland Pocket Park.

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This park was funded by this new apartment complex being built at Royal Crest and Riverside.

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This is a photo of this new apartment complex, which is a six story building with over 100 apartments.

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The Woodland Park and the Royal Crest Park are to serve the recreational needs of the thousands of residents of the current and new apartment complexes along Royal Crest and East Riverside Drive. The two small squares in this aerial photo show these parks.

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This is a photo of the new 4-story apartment complex being built at Willow and Riverside.

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The Parkland Dedication Fees for this development funded the Holly Shores at Town Lake Park. This park is north of Lady Bird Lake, and not within walking distance of this apartment complex.

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This East Riverside area is already the densest area outside of the Central Business District, and it is becoming even more dense. The striped areas on this map are apartment complexes, and the brown areas are in the East Riverside Corridor Plan area, which allows even higher densities than the current multi-family zoning. The two new apartment complexes I have just

shown this Board are examples of the future of the East Riverside area.

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The East Riverside Corridor Regulating Plan will allow buildings of up to 120 feet in height in transit hub areas. On this map the areas in brown are within these Transit Hubs.

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Next, I would like to give the Parks Board a brief overview of the demographics of the East Riverside area.

This map shows the income distribution in the East Riverside area, which has the lowest income distribution in the city.

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Between 80 to 90 percent of the residents of the East Riverside area rent.

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A high percentage of the East Riverside population consists of immigrants.

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The demographics of Linder Elementary School give the most accurate snapshot of the area population: 78% Hispanic, 63% English as a second language, 91% economically disadvantaged.

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Not only is the East Riverside area lacking parks, but there is also no community center. This lack of a community center impacts the distribution of needed social services. One example is the Riverside Togetherness Project.

The East Riverside area is considered the highest crime area in the city and was chosen for a Department of Justice grant to fund the Riverside Togetherness project. The goal of this project is to reduce crime in the East Riverside area through community-based policing. This project has been hampered by the lack of a place to meet. There are no public buildings in the target area where the community can meet.

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Many other community service organizations that operate in this area have the same problem. For years

the East Riverside community relied on churches as civic meeting places. The last church to close in this area was the Parker Lane Methodist Church in 2019. Many civic and service organizations used this church for their offices. Ed Miller will speak next on the community service organizations that had offices in this church. This church would have been a perfect community center. It was centrally located in the East Riverside area, had a gym with a basketball court, a commercial kitchen, offices for service organizations, a chapel for meetings, and lots of parking. In 2021, when there was a Neighborhood Plan Amendment to change the zoning from Civic to Multi-family, The EROC Contact Team asked City Council for this church be rented by the city for a community center, but the buildings will be demolished for apartments.

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The EROC Contact Team voted to ask City Council to consider the needs of the many low-income residents who live in this area by allowing the former Youth Hostel to be used as a Community Center for the East Riverside area. A community center is what this area needs and would be the most beneficial use for the residents of this area.

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These are the requests of the East Riverside community:

Community organizations should be allowed to use rooms in the Youth Hostel for meetings until the facility closes for renovation.

Recognition that the Youth Hostel and any future building on this property are public facilities that should be available to all community organizations.

Recognition that the EROC Contact Team and other community organizations are stakeholders in the process to decide future uses of the Youth Hostel property.

The Parkland Dedication Fees that are generated in this area should be spent in this area.

There needs to be an improved process for notifying communities about changes to parks in their area.

Thank you for your service. Ed Miller will speak next about the need for social services in the East Riverside area.

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