Resolution in Support of a Moratorium on Residential Zoning Amendments and Variances During the Pandemic

Whereas, the City of Austin has established Plan Contact Teams and asked them to undertake the considerable effort to create Neighborhood Plans and Future Land Use Maps only to ignore them when approving substantial zoning amendments in residential areas, affecting life quality and property of surrounding neighbors; and,

Whereas, the global pandemic has made "in person" meetings and hearings impossible and the state has waived Open Meetings law in order to allow online meetings and hearings; and,

Whereas, members of the Dawson Neighborhood Association and Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team have struggled to make our voices heard when the Austin City Council and Planning Commission have made decisions affecting our neighborhood; and,

Whereas, the city of Austin has continued to grant zoning applications in residential neighborhoods throughout the city without meaningful and substantial feedback from neighbors, thus violating the spirit (if not the letter) of Open Meetings law; and

Whereas, all citizens have a right to offer meaningful feedback regarding zoning amendments that will affect their neighborhoods,

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Dawson Neighborhood Association and Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team call on the city of Austin to issue a moratorium on further zoning amendments on (or variances via Board of Adjustments that affect) residential properties for the duration of the pandemic and that until meetings can be conducted in person and citizens are able to exercise their right to clearly and meaningfully express their concerns to governing bodies.

Let it be further resolved that the city of Austin will suspend zoning changes from SF-3 to SF-6 or other more intense uses in neighborhoods in the urban core until the COVID-related restrictions on "in person" meetings are ended.

Passed By the ANC Executive Committee 1/12/21
Sponsor: Julie Woods, ANC Sector 7 Representative