



Robertson Hill Neighborhood Association

c/o Valerie Thatcher, President • 1193 Curve St • Austin, Texas 78702

Late Backup

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17 January 2007

TO: Austin City Council members

RE: OCEAN small lot amendment to the McMansion Ordinance

Case Numbers. Neighborhood Plan

Amendment, NPA-2007-0009.01;

Rezoning, C14-01-0148.004

Dear Austin City Council:

The Robertson Hill Neighborhood Association (RHNA) encompasses an area of Central East Austin that lies between Branch and Angelina Streets to the west and east, and 11th and 12th Streets to the south and north. At our January 13, 2008 monthly neighborhood association meeting, a solid majority of neighbors in attendance voted to support OCEAN in its request for an amendment to the McMansion ordinance that requires the .4 FAR on lots 5,750 square feet or larger to also apply to lots smaller than 5,750 square feet, rather than either the maximum of 2,300 square feet or .4 FAR. We believe this amendment will preserve the existing character and affordability of Central East Austin.

Sincerely,

President,

Robertson Hill Neighborhood Association



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Minority Report on proposed small lot amendment to the McMansion Ordinance

A minority of the voting residents opposed OCEAN's proposal. The primary concern was adequate housing space for families. With affordable homes in the suburbs, downtown neighborhoods are competing with much larger homes available to families outside of Austin. If the Robertson Hill neighborhood is to maintain homeownership by families, these families need to have the ability to expand their homes to meet their growing needs. Restricting the size of homes built on lots that are already small, and that already have easement restrictions, would discourage families from staying in or moving to the neighborhood and will likely encourage residency by single individuals who would later move to larger housing outside the area.