

#89

To: Mayor Lee Leffingwell  
Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole  
Councilmembers Chris Riley, Mike Martinez,  
Kathy Tovo, Laura Morrison, Bill Spelman

April 5, 2012

## Late Backup

Subject: Sneed Zoning Case

At the January Planning Commission meeting and at the subsequent City Council hearing on the Sneed zoning case, allegations against the University Hills area were placed on the record by speakers supporting the Sneed request for commercial upzoning.

The inference made was that University Hills is not a good, single family community but, rather, is an area rife with multiple criminal problems and, therefore, the community's opposition to the Sneed commercial upzoning request is without merit.

In deciding the merits of any issue, the University Hills Neighborhood Association does not involve itself in gossip, personal opinions, assumptions, indications, inferences, or allegations.

Rather, as has been established, the UHNA relies on research and documentation to determine the facts of any issue with which it is involved.

In that regard, the UHNA initiated a Public Information Request to the Public Information Office of the City of Austin, for area APD statistics covering a thirteen month period.

Central to verification of the Sneed allegations is obtaining information on the alleged after hours noise, music, and large gathering of individuals in the Loyola Business Park (LBP).

According to the PIO, a specific APD category for the alleged problem at the LBP, such as violation of the noise ordinance, unlawful assembly, criminal mischief or activity, is required before data specifically attached to the allegation can be provided to the UHNA.

To date, lacking a specific identifying category, no verifiable data is available from the PIO on this particular area of concern, whether it occurs at the LBP or at any other University Hills location.

In addition to requesting data on the LBP situation through our PIR, the UHNA requested that APD directed patrols be initiated in the LBP area to assist in determining whether or not the allegations involved at this site had any merit.

To date, to the best of our knowledge, the requested patrols have not occurred, possibly due to the need for increased police manpower at the recent SXSW and throughout the downtown area in general.

Regrettably, without confirmation that a problem exists at the LBP and what that problem is, the APD statistical report for the University Hills community remains incomplete.

PIO data that has been received, to date, reveals an interesting and serious development, pertinent to the Sneed's commercial upzoning request.

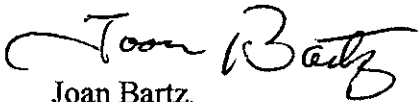
By a significant majority, consistent and repetitive criminal activity is concentrated on or next to commercial major arterials bordering the University Hills community. These major arterials are Hwy. 183/Ed Bluestein Blvd., Hwy. 290 East, Manor/Springdale Roads, and Northeast Drive.

A more obvious connection between commercial zoning on major arterials, whether upzoning or otherwise, and the proliferation of criminal activity resulting in adverse effects on the residential community, would be difficult to find.

The University Hills community, from its inception, has been, and will continue to be, a family oriented, law abiding, residential community with limited, large, commercial development on the periphery of the community.

Within that context, the safety of our children, our schools, Dottie Jordan Park, the University Hills Library, our residents of all ages and ethnicities, our churches, our streets, and area businesses both large and small shall remain the focus of all UHNA interactions with the leaders of Austin - elected and/or bureaucratic.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joan Bartz".

Joan Bartz,  
UHNA Vice President, Area Contact Team Member