

Oralia Garza de Cortes



Susan Walker
Planning and Review Dept.
City of Austin
301 W. 2nd. St.
Austin, Texas 78701

August 14, 2012

Dear Ms. Walker:

With regard to Item # 86 of the Council agenda for August 16, 2016:

Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution regarding a request by Speedy Shop Food Store #409, located at 6707 Cameron Rd., for a waiver from the distance requirement of City Code Section 4-9-4 which requires a minimum of 300 feet between a business that sells alcoholic beverages and a public school.:

Contrary to item # 6 of Section 4-9-4(A) of the Austin City Code, voting to allow the new owner, Speedy Stop to sell alcoholic beverages at his new establishment that sits less than 300 feet of a public school indeed poses eminent danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the students at Reagan High School as well as to the families and communities of

Coronado Hills, St. John's and Windsor Park neighborhoods.

Granting this variance also serves to undermine what the school district and the school is trying so hard to achieve by turning a traditionally underachieving high school into a model of educational excellence. Why would the City of Austin want to undermine AISD efforts here? Why would the City want in all good conscious to contribute toward at-risk students' trajectory into the school to prison pipeline with this first step of making alcohol available to them so close to their school community?

The proposed variance poses a potential grave injustice for the students and the community at large that needs laws such as these to better protect them, not place them in harm's way.

Please add to the official record this letter in opposition to the proposed variance waiver and resolution.

Sincerely,

Oralia Garza de Cortés

East/NE Austin Interfaith Cluster Leader
Our Lady of Guadalupe Social Justice Ministry
Windsor Park Resident

August 13, 2012

To: Susan Walker (susan.walker@austintexas.gov)

Subject: Speedy Shop Food Store #409 Waiver Request
City Council Agenda #86 / August 16, 2012
ID #16719

In regard to the Speedy Shop Food Store #409 request for a waiver from the distance requirement of City Code Section 4-9-4, which requires a minimum of 300 feet between a business that sells alcoholic beverages and a public school, the University Hills Neighborhood Association objects to the granting of this waiver.

Within the University Hills community there are many Reagan students and families, present and from the past, who are concerned for the well being of our Reagan student population which will be adversely affected should this waiver be granted.

Let the record reflect that the UHNA supports the opposition of the Austin Independent School District to the granting of the requested waiver.

Vera Givens, President
University Hills Neighborhood Association
vgivens28@[REDACTED]

From: Billie Talley [mailto:billietalley@]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 4:14 PM
To: Walker, Susan
Subject:

Allowing wine and alcohol to be sold within the Reagan High School area would be a very bad idea. Please think hard on this matter.

Billie Talley

From: Bob Hauser [mailto:rhauser001@]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 11:44 AM
To: Walker, Susan
Subject: Variance to liquor law

I oppose to granting a variance to liquor law

From: Cindy Layton [mailto:cglayton@]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 6:26 PM
To: Walker, Susan
Subject: Exxon at Cameron Rd. and 290

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rev. Cynthia Grout Layton and I served as Associate Pastor of Hispanic Ministries at Memorial United Methodist Church on Berkman Dr. Many of the parishioners are alumni of Reagan and some still have grandchildren attending Reagan. After having worked in the neighborhood for four years and seeing the effects of the sale of alcohol at other gas stations in the area, I want to encourage you not to accept the variance request to sell beer and wine from the Exxon at Cameron Road and 290. There are already many places close to that site where those items can be purchased. I also feel that it is a conflict of interest to have those items available so close to Reagan High School. I understand that if minors want to purchase alcohol they will manage to do so, but why should it be made so easy for them. Please consider the well being of the neighborhood and the students when making this decision.

Sincerely,

Rev. Cynthia Grout Layton
St. Mark UMC

From: J Anderson [mailto:janderpost@]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 4:13 PM
To: Walker, Susan
Subject: Speedy Stop #409 waiver for alcohol sales--AGAINST

Dear Ms. Walker,

As a resident of the Windsor Park neighborhood in Austin who lives near Reagan High School, I would like to register my strong opposition to the request by Speedy Stop #409 at 6707

Cameron Road for a waiver from the City Code which requires a minimum of 300 feet between a business that sells alcoholic beverages and a public school.

Schools in our area have enough challenges already and richly deserve all the protections that our city code intended to afford them, and these protections should not be abrogated for the sake of a commercial establishment's desire to expand its market. The store's location has long been subject to the restriction on alcohol sales because of its proximity to a school, and I do not believe that their anticipated increase in commerce due to the requested code waiver will contribute meaningfully enough to the community to override a reasonable code stipulation that is meant to help our schools and children.

Thank you for your time and your attention to this matter.

Jessica Anderson
[REDACTED]

From: Martin Luecke [mailto:mwluecke@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 3:01 AM
To: Walker, Susan; jeanette swenson
Subject: Windsor Park Neighborhood Association

Hello Mrs. Walker my name is Martin Luecke, Vice President of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association.

At our Saturday August 11 meeting the Association voted unanimously to send you a letter opposing the request for variance to sell alcoholic beverages at the Tiger Mart owned by the Speedy Stop Corporation at the corner of Cameron Road and 290E. This address is within 300 feet of Reagan High School.

This convenience store has existed successfully for many years at this address without ever selling beer and wine, and our neighborhood association thinks it should not be allowed to provide alcoholic beverages so close to the front door of the school.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Martin Luecke
[REDACTED]

From: Mike Wusterhausen [mailto:mikewusterhausen@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 11:03 AM
To: Walker, Susan; mikewusterhausen@[REDACTED]
Subject: Case # SPC-2012-0069 AW Coronado Hills / Creekside Neighborhood Association Input

Susan Walker, I forgot to put a title line in the last email, Sorry, Mike Wusterhausen

From: mikewusterhausen@
To: susan.walker@austintexas.gov; mikewusterhausen@
Subject:
Date: Tue, 14 Aug 2012 16:00:35 +0000

Susan Walker,

I was reviewing the back up on the alcohol waiver request and saw the form I had emailed in June stating the Coronado Hills / Creekside Neighborhood Association opposed granting the alcohol waiver was not attached. I am sending it again. Below is a more detailed email stating our neighborhood's opposition to this waiver.

Thanks, Mike Wusterhausen, President coronado Hills / Creekside Neighborhood Association.

This email is written on behalf of the Coronado Hills / Creekside Neighborhood Association to address a zoning variance scheduled for the Council meeting on Thursday, August 16th. (SPC-2012-0069AW)

The property owner is requesting a waiver allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages at a convenience store located across the street from Reagan High School. This is an existing store and not a new construction. The restriction! has been in place since the store was built. We oppose granting such a variance.

We support our local school and understand the student population already faces enough challenges in their day to day school lives. Adding another challenge to a positive learning atmosphere by selling alcohol across the street at a Speedy Stop does not demonstrate the support our school needs from its community.

We as a neighborhood believe the same principles that applied when the sale of alcohol in such close proximity to our neighborhood school was restricted still apply today. The same school is still here. The students are still not old enough to purchase alcohol. The students still deserve a positive learning atmosphere. Nothing has changed.

Restricting the sale of alcohol in such close proximity to a school ensures a store employee does not succumb to the temptation to earn a few dollars under the table by selling alcohol to minors. It also eliminates the chance of minors shoplifting alcohol across the street from the school.

The waiver should not be granted.

Thank you for the time and opportunity to both share our opinion and express our support of our neighborhood school.

Mike Wusterhausen, President Coronado Hills / Creekside Neighborhood Association.

From: Robert Carpenter [mailto:rwcarpenter3@]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 3:00 PM

To: Walker, Susan
Subject: Speedy Stop #409 6707 Cameron road

Ms. Walker,

As a member of Windsor Park Neighborhood Association I oppose the request by Speedy Stop #409 at 6707 Cameron Road for a waiver from the City Code which requires a minimum of 300 feet between a business that sells alcoholic beverages and a public school (Reagan High School in this case). This is on the City Council agenda for this Thursday, August 16th.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Robert Carpenter

-----Original Message-----

From: Yuri Prentice [mailto:yuri.prentice@coronadohills.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 1:01 PM
To: Walker, Susan
Subject: Opposition to Alcohol Waiver

Ms. Walker,

I wish to go on record as opposing the alcohol waiver for the Speedy Shop at 6707 Cameron Road (ID #16719). Reagan High School is less than 300 feet from the Speedy Shop. As a community, we need to support instead of introducing additional potentially negative influences to a very vulnerable population, which is already struggling to maintain acceptable academic endeavors.

Yuri Prentice
Coronado Hills Resident

From: Bonnie Turek [mailto:blturek@coronadohills.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 1:31 PM
To: Walker, Susan
Subject: Alcohol Waiver for Speedy Stop # 409

Dear Ms. Walker,

I am opposed to granting the waiver, that would allow Speedy Stop at 6707 Cameron Rd, to sell alcoholic beverages. The street that separates it from Reagan H.S is only 50 ft wide.

I've lived in Coronado Hills for 41 years and the approval of this waiver by the City Council would most definitely be, in general, a detriment to the health, safety and welfare of this community/neighborhood and in particular, to the large number of high risk students that attend Reagan High School.

Bonnie Turek, member
Coronado Hills/Creekside
Neighborhood Assn.