

Austin Neighborhoods Council

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Post Office Box 176 • Austin, Texas 78767

25 February 2010

Dear Mayor Leffingwell, Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members,

The Austin Neighborhoods Council is an umbrella organization representing neighborhood associations across the city. The following resolution regarding group boarding homes was approved at the ANC General Membership meeting on february24, 2010.

ANC Resolution concerning Group/Boarding Homes

WHEREAS, the 81st Legislature passed HB 216 which provides protections for elderly and disabled persons residing in group homes and boarding homes which have heretofore had no oversight, licensing or regulation; and

WHEREAS, the bill requires that, by September 1, 2010 the Texas Department of Health & Human Services approve a standardized set of model standards for the registration, regulation, inspection and supervision of boarding home locations, including group homes, for the elderly and disabled which can be adopted by metropolitans and turned into city ordinances; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2009 the Austin City Council passed a Resolution directing the City Manager to work with those employees of the Texas Department of Health & Human Services in the development of the model standards required by HB 216; and

WHEREAS, the University Hills Neighborhood Association Group Home Task Force, composed of members of neighborhood associations located in University Hills, Coronado Hills/Creekside, Pecan Springs/Springdale and Windsor Park, respectively, has conducted extensive research on these issues and, in particular, the University Hills Neighborhood Association Group Home Task Force has specific knowledge and experience with the plight of residents who live in these unlicensed group and/or boarding homes, and have provided representatives from the community to testify before Senate and House committees during hearings concerning the unlicensed group and/or boarding home issues; and

WHEREAS, the City Council's Resolution of October 22, 2009 did not provide a suggestion or mandate by which the University Hills Neighborhood Association Group Home Task Force could share its wealth of knowledge and experience to those who have been charged with the responsibility of drafting model standards for metropolitans to consider for adoption into their own ordinance structure; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Neighborhoods Council respectfully urges the Austin City Council to require the City Manager to avail himself and his staff of the research, knowledge and experience gained by the University Hills Neighborhood Association Group Home Task Force and that the City Manager and staff make meaningful efforts toward this goal by advising the University Hills Neighborhood Association Group Home Task Force of all meetings and work sessions that are scheduled regarding this matter. Further, that the City Manager and staff maintain an open door policy for members of the University Hills Neighborhood Association Group Home Task Force, as well as any other neighborhoods interested in this issue, to engage in meaningful discourse and foster the opportunity for neighborhoods to provide another "voice at the table" as the model standards are discussed and drafted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cory Walton



President, Austin Neighborhoods Council