

Austin Neighborhoods Council

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Post Office Box 176 • Austin, Texas 78767

03 May 2010

Dear Mayor Leffingwell, Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members,

The Austin Neighborhoods Council is an umbrella organization representing over 80 neighborhood associations across the city.

At its April 28 general meeting ANC unanimously approved (with one abstention) the following resolution regarding the authorities and liabilities of Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams.

ANC and Austin neighborhoods have requested from City Legal clarification of the City's responsibilities with regard to liabilities these groups are exposed to while serving functions of City Neighborhood Planning and Zoning as defined in City Ordinance. The result of Legal's research and findings are still pending.

Authorities & Liabilities of Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams

Whereas City of Austin Land Development Code defines a Neighborhood Plan Contact Team as "an interested party for purposes of notice, appeal, and other processes" and "a separate body apart from any other existing or future neighborhood organization"
(Source: Ord. 20080306-073; Ord. 20091105-069; Ord. 20091217-053) and;

Whereas the City of Austin encourages participants in the development of a neighborhood plan to form a Neighborhood Plan Contact Team during the planning process or once the plan is adopted and;

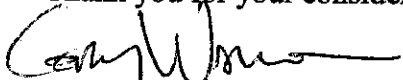
Whereas many stakeholders devote numerous volunteer hours to work on their neighborhood plan through participation in a Neighborhood Plan Contact Team and;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams are clearly defined on the Planning and Development Review pages of the City of Austin website, but the authority of Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams is not clearly laid out and;

Whereas questions have arisen regarding potential liability of Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams and the individual participants in those Teams

Therefore be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council calls upon the City of Austin to clearly define the authority of Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams, including provisions for team members' representation in any litigation arising from their actions, decisions and initiatives arising from participation in city-sanctioned neighborhood planning processes.

Thank you for your consideration.



Cory Walton

President, Austin Neighborhoods Council