



Mayor, City Council Members. City Manager Spencer Cronk and Assistant City Manager Joe Pantalio,

As the recently elected President of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, I am writing you today to ask for your help in ensuring the “re-boot” of the CodeNEXT process will achieve community wide support and to express the ANC’s support of the Council action to halt the previous CodeNEXT process. We also support the Council’s direction to City Manager Cronk to develop a new process for the completion of the rewrite of Austin’s Land Development Code (LDC). We strongly believe that the City Manager should undertake this new process with a clean slate to afford the best opportunity to build a consensus on our LDC and to re-establish trust in our City Government.

However, we are once again concerned that some members of the Planning Commission are either attempting to undermine Council’s direction to the City Manager or simply do not understand the basis needed to garner city wide support for the eventual outcome of the LDC rewrite process. Last month there were several items on the Planning Commission agenda that appeared to be attempts at an “end run” on honoring the Council’s charge to the City Manager. The ANC in response to these agenda items raised our concerns with the Mayor and the City Manager’s office. We sincerely appreciated the quick response and the resultant letter from Planning Director Greg Guernsey indicating staff’s lack of support for those previous PC agenda items.

As a result, those previous PC agenda items were essentially tabled. However before these items were pulled down, one of the sponsors of these items try to downplay the impact of those items to initiate sweeping code changes by indicating his intend was simply to get staff to brief the PC on where and when the VMU could be used and that It would not be a blanket “re-zoning” but rather a new zoning tool that could be utilized with community support. At the end of that discussion the sponsor indicated that he would bring back a new resolution for PC consideration that was more specific to his intent.

However, that the new postings for tomorrow’s PC meeting concerning these items seems to actually go further in their scope than either the previous posting or the rational presented by the sponsor at the previous PC meeting, please see below the new posting language.

The ANC is concerned that such piece meal attempts to get code changes that were at the heart of the divisiveness of the original CodeNEXT should be avoided if a new LDC rewrite process is to be successful. We find it very ironic that one of the calls to do a rewrite of the LDC was the complexity and confusion around all the “piecemeal” code amendments embedded in the current zoning code. Isn’t this exactly what these proposed PC actions are?

Therefore, we urge that the Director of Planning reaffirm City Management’s position on such attempts at initiating important city-wide zoning code changes until after the City Manager has established a new process for the “re-boot” of CodeNEXT.

Sincerely

*Pat King*, President of the Austin Neighborhoods Council

ANC 2018 CodeNEXT PC letter on Nov. 13 agenda items

Planning Commission November 13, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. City Hall – Chambers 301 W. 2nd Street Austin, TX 78701

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Initiation of Code Amendment Related to Vertical Mixed Use Overlay District

Discuss and consider the initiation of an amendment to Title 25 of the Land Development Code to establish Vertical Mixed Use Overlay District either by zoning change or conditional use permit anywhere within ¼ mile of a Core Transit Corridor, Future Core Transit Corridor, Imagine Austin Corridor, or existing transit line. (Co-Sponsors: Commissioners Thompson and Anderson)

2. Initiation of Code Amendment Related to Multifamily Residential Use and Condominium Residential Use

Discuss and consider the initiation of an amendment to Title 25 of the Land Development Code amendment to allow Multifamily Residential use and Condominium Residential use as either permitted uses or conditional uses in all commercial zoning districts. (Co-Sponsors: Commissioners Thompson and Anderson)