

SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD 22

WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION - MEMORIAL PARK

To: Mayor Annise D. Parker and Members of Houston City Council

Date: November 27, 2012

Re: SN 22 Supports the Proposal to Create a Washington Avenue Parking Benefit District

As the President of the Washington Avenue/Memorial Park Super Neighborhood (SN 22), I am pleased to express SN 22's support for the proposed Washington Avenue Parking Benefit District (PBD).

The boundaries of SN 22 include the entirety of the area described by the proposed PBD, and our residents are those who are most affected by the tremendous amount of development that has occurred in this area in recent years. The parking congestion along Washington Avenue leads commuters to delve into our neighborhoods to find parking spaces, which has caused many hardships for our residents and small businesses alike.

We are routinely faced with the consequences of having revelers in our front yards—noise, trash, air pollution from circling cars, fights, and increased crime. In fact from 2010 to 2011, the Washington Avenue Corridor has seen a 32% increase in non-violent crime! Our community has been enduring these side effects of development for several years, and we are thrilled that the city is finally moving forward on this issue.

Because our neighborhoods are mixed-use, the city's Residential Permit Parking (RPP) program has offered little relief as eligibility is limited to blocks that are at least 75% residential. The proposed PBD would relax this limitation by allowing property owners on all blocks within 1,000 ft. of Washington Avenue to petition for inclusion in the RPP program without having to satisfy the 75% requirement. This expansion of the RPP program will give owners of small businesses and live/work spaces such as art galleries the opportunity to protect themselves from these concerns while balancing the needs of other businesses.

Furthermore, the creation of a dedicated revenue source for community projects will benefit all stakeholders in the Washington Avenue area, including residents, business owners, and patrons. This funding can contribute to improved security, better lighting, walkable sidewalks, and many other amenities that will not only enhance the safety of our neighborhoods but also increase the attractiveness of Washington Avenue as a commercial corridor and entertainment district, which will in turn sustain the economic viability of our community.

For these reasons, Super Neighborhood 22 strongly urges you to approve the creation of the Washington Avenue Parking Benefit District, and looks forward to the security that its implementation will bring to our community. Please contact me should you have any questions about SN 22's position on this issue.

Sincerely,



Jane Cahill West
President
832-721-9080
jcahill@hal-pc.org

P. O. BOX 70886 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77270