

ALLIANCE FOR SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS

Councilmember Rebecca Viagran
District 3
City of San Antonio

Via email to rebecca.viagran@sanantonio.gov

August 6, 2016

OPEN LETTER REQUESTING THE CITY COLLECT AND DISTRIBUTE PROPOSALS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT AND RE-ZONING IN THE WORLD HERITAGE BUFFER AREA

Dear Councilmember Viagran:

It has come to our attention that new construction is proceeding at the corner of Padre Drive and SE Military Drive. No permits are posted, but research suggests that this development may be a planned Security Service Federal Credit Union location.

We believe this to be the first development of any size in the San Antonio Missions World Heritage buffer area since the designation last year.

We have been unable to find any member of the local neighborhood associations who was aware of this development prior to construction beginning last week.

Were you aware of this development? We presume so, but would request your confirmation.

We assume that this development is going forward in accord with all currently established permitting processes. What is striking however, is that there has been no discussion of this development in any of the public City meetings or informational World Heritage meetings of which we, or our local neighborhood associations, have been made aware.

You have repeatedly assured your constituents that you would share information and engage us as development in the World Heritage buffer area moves ahead. Was there nothing to say about this development, not even the fact that it was happening?

We do not object to this particular type of development per se, although we as a community do not have enough information at this time to assess whether there is a

need for another credit union in that location. We do know that the needs and desires identified in our meetings are for more diverse businesses and amenities going forward: more professional services, a greater range of retail opportunities, a greater range of restaurant choices....

We are writing now primarily to point out that this was a lost opportunity to truly share information and to concretely engage the community on an actual proposed development.

We have repeatedly asked that the City make this information easier for citizens to track so that we can participate in shaping the future of our communities and our City in a fully informed and timely way.

We again request that your office support our call for the City to collate and distribute relevant information on proposed development and re-zoning in the World Heritage buffer area. The City and particularly its Offices of Historic Preservation and World Heritage must be able to easily access and synthesize this information. Indeed, we would think this information is necessary to the work of the World Heritage Office. Can there be any valid reason not to share this collected information publicly and make it easily accessible?

We urgently request your response. If there is no recognition that this letter has been received by your office, I will deliver this letter again--in person by the COB August 8, 2016. A simple 'reply' is all that is needed to confirm receipt.

Sincerely yours,

Carroll Brown, PhD
Secretary
Alliance for San Antonio Missions
m 210 601-1228

cc:

Mayor Ivy R. Taylor mayor.ivytaylor@sanantonio.gov
Sheryl Sculley citymanager@sanantonio.gov, sheryl.sculley@sanantonio.gov
Shanon Shea Miller shanon.miller@sanantonio.gov
Colleen Swain colleen.swain@sanantonio.gov
Roberto C. Treviño district1@sanantonio.gov
Alan E. Warrick, II district2@sanantonio.gov
Rey Saldaña rey.saldana@sanantonio.gov
Shirley Gonzales shirley.gonzales@sanantonio.gov
Ray Lopez ray.lopez@sanantonio.gov
Cris Medina cris.medina@sanantonio.gov
Ron Nirenberg district8@sanantonio.gov
Joe Krier district9@sanantonio.gov
Mike Gallagher district10@sanantonio.gov