

Resolution in support of Councilman Leffingwell's Re-Development Ordinance, 2007

WHEREAS, Austin City Council Member Lee Leffingwell has proposed an amendment to the City's code commonly known as the "re-development ordinance;"

WHEREAS, in June of 2006, Council Member Leffingwell formed a group of affected stakeholders, known the Barton Springs Advisory Group, to study the issue of re-development in the Barton Springs Zone and make recommendations concerning the ordinance;

WHEREAS, the Barton Springs Zone Advisory Group, which included OHAN, met regularly for approximately one year, working actively on topics such as re-development in the Barton Springs Zone, reasons that re-development does not occur in Oak Hill and elsewhere due to existing laws, and the negative effects on both the environment and the community that result from aging properties that do not re-develop;

WHEREAS, due in large part to the restrictions of the Save Our Springs ordinance, Oak Hill contains numerous commercial properties that have not re-developed for many years;

WHEREAS, in many cases, these properties do not have modern water quality controls, allowing runoff water to enter the watershed and aquifer without treatment or removal of pollutants;

WHEREAS, this situation results in perverse incentives to avoid re-development, contributing to the shortage of commercial and retail services for Oak Hill while also allowing pollution that might be captured using modern water quality controls to continue;

WHEREAS, the re-development ordinance is intended and designed to allow for reasonable re-development of properties in Oak Hill and the rest of the Barton Springs Zone in a manner that creates a net environmental benefit;

WHEREAS, the re-development ordinance serves as a good first step toward a new approach to water quality and development in the Barton Springs Zone that emphasizes clustered development and managing total pollutant load instead of focusing primarily on impervious cover;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods supports the re-development ordinance sponsored by Council Member Leffingwell and urges its adoption by the Austin City Council.

Adopted this 12th day of September, 2007

Dwain Rogers, OHAN President

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