OHAN Resolution Related to the Proposed Changes to Accessory Dwelling Units-Secondary Apartments Regulation

WHEREAS, the amendments made in the City Council Planning and Neighborhoods Committee, composed of 4 City Council members, would permit Accessory Dwelling Units/Secondary Apartments effective everywhere in Austin, in single family zoned neighborhoods, and neighborhoods with deed restrictions which prohibit them, including virtually all District 8 neighborhoods (ftp://ftp.austintexas.gov/GIS-Data/planning/maps/ADU_Potential.pdf); and

WHEREAS, the City Council and Austin stakeholders need to consider the short and long term consequences of this significant change upon the neighborhoods, including but not limited to: aging infrastructure, changing flood zones in areas with increased impervious cover, unintended skewing of property values and increased taxes that may result, changes in the affordability of housing, impact on neighborhood character and public safety, and the subversion of the regulation of Short Term Rentals; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Neighborhood Committee made major amendments after the close of the public hearings, resulting in a lack of updated notification to the community, neighborhoods, and Contact Teams regarding the impact of this ordinance and its amendments which would override neighborhood plans and conflict with deed restrictions; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Plans are designed by the stakeholders, are supported by Imagine Austin, and were approved by City Council; and

WHEREAS, it would set a new precedent for City Council committees to make significant changes to ordinances without the knowledge or opportunity for stakeholder input in a series of meetings "with so many moving parts" that even the City Council could have difficulty remaining informed of amendments. (City Council Regular Meeting October 15 item 54 and 55); NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT OHAN requests that Mayor Adler and the City Council vote "no" or postpone action on the proposed ADU Ordinance or any ordinance amending City Code Chapters 25-2 and 25-6 1 relating to ADUs pending additional public hearings and commit to conducting all additional public hearings in a transparent and inclusive fashion;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OHAN requests that any ordinance relating to ADUs include an "opt in /opt out" provision for neighborhoods to avoid any unintended consequences and to respect neighborhoods, deed restrictions, and Neighborhood Plans.

Motion in support of the above approved unanimously by Travis Country HOA Board: November 6, 2015

Presented to OHAN Membership: November 9, 2015

Membership approved: November 11, 2015