

May 2, 2025

Mayor Watson and City Council Members

Austin City Council, City Hall, Council Chamber

RE: Item 50 – 2024-128390 LM Right-of-Way Vacation

Dear Mayor Watson and City Council Members,

Thank you for your tireless leadership. I very much appreciate your work in support of a thriving community for all Austinites.

I request your support, as I – and OWANA - strongly oppose the proposed vacation of Sayers Street initiated by Anchor Equities and scheduled for the May 8th hearing. The proposal has already received unanimous opposition from the Urban Transportation Commission and was formally denied by the Transportation and Public Works Department.

I've walked the area, studied the maps, and learned about the great development proposal, which will enhance the Old West Austin Neighborhood. While benefiting all Austinites – and visitors - who drive on west 6th street and will spend time shopping, dining, and creating positive social bonds as the proposed project comes to live.

The Old West Austin Neighborhood Association (OWANA), along with the owners of 503 and 505 Walsh Street, firmly support Sayers Street remaining open. This corridor is essential for pedestrian safety, service vehicle access, and future development viability. It provides critical infrastructure support - trash collection, deliveries, and transformer placement - while keeping such functions off pedestrian friendly streets.

District 9 Council Member Qadri supports the UTC and staff recommendations to keep Walsh Street open based on the facts of this case, including that the area property owners were not in agreement.

Sayers Street is also vital for businesses at 503 and 505 Walsh, whose operations had relied on large delivery vehicles that cannot access the properties from Walsh due to topography. Claims that the street is used only by retail customers are demonstrably false. Additionally, the planned "Sixth and Walsh" mixed-use development, which includes 25 affordable housing units, depends on continued public access to Sayers Street for utilities, loading, and garage access. Vacating the street would stall the project and increase traffic congestion on Walsh Street.

We are concerned that Anchor Equities, which owns adjacent parcels, is seeking to privatize Sayers forfeiture development.

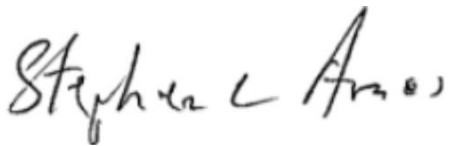
Despite claims of no immediate redevelopment plans, such intentions seem inconsistent with ongoing development activity in the area. The petition for vacation identifies **only** the portion of Sayers Street that runs **east and west**, not the portion that runs north and south. Anchor Equities seeks inverse condemnation for personal gain at the expense of other owners not having access to the street.

This proposed vacation serves private interests at the cost of public utility, safety, and neighborhood integrity.

The City of Austin Transportation Code also requires unanimous consent from adjacent property owners - 503 and 505 Walsh were neither consulted nor supportive.

I urge you to reject this application in the interest of maintaining vital infrastructure, supporting affordable housing, and preserving a walkable, vibrant West Austin.

Sincerely,



Chair of the Old West Austin Neighborhood Association (OWANA) Steering Committee

Address since the summer of 1988:

Stephen L. Amos

1607 Waterston Avenue, Austin, TX 78703

[REDACTED]

512 970 7443

cc: christopher.bueckert@austintexas.gov gilda.powers@austintexas.gov

cc: [REDACTED]

April 30, 2025

Mayor Watson and City Council Members
Austin City Council, City Hall, Council Chamber

RE: Item 50 – 2024-128390 LM Right-of-Way Vacation

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Sincerely,

Renae Alsobrook & Mark Rolston
806 Blanco Street
Austin, TX 78703

[REDACTED]

cc:christopher.bueckert@austintexas.gov
gilda.powers@austintexas.gov

cc: [REDACTED]

5/1/2025

To: Mayor Watson and City Council Members

Austin City Council, City Hall, Council Chamber

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Sincerely,

Nancy Risk
1204 Lorrain St
Austin, TX 78703

May 2, 2025

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Sincerely,

William Osborn
1104 Elm Street
Austin, TX 78703



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Austin City Council, City Hall, Council Chamber

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We are concerned that Anchor Equities, which owns adjacent parcels, is seeking to privatize Sayers forfeiture for development and to do so without transparency should not be encouraged. It would set a very bad precedent.

This proposed vacation serves private interests at the cost of public utility, safety, and neighborhood integrity.

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I urge you to reject this application in the interest of maintaining vital infrastructure, supporting affordable housing, and preserving a walkable, vibrant West Austin.

Sincerely,



Member of the Old West Austin Neighborhood Association (OWANA) Steering Committee

Meghan Yancy

Clarksville Resident

cc: christopher.bueckert@austintexas.gov gilda.powers@austintexas.gov

cc: [REDACTED]