### ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE: C14-2022-0107 – Vargas Mixed Use DISTRICT: 3

ZONING FROM: GR-NP for Tract 1

TO: CS-MU-NP for Tract 1

LB NP for Tract 2

<u>AMENDED REQUEST:</u> CS-DB90-NP for Tract 1; LR-DB90-NP for Tract 2, and to modify the DB90 ordinance ground floor Pedestrian-Oriented Commercial Spaces requirement per Section 25-2-652 (F)(3)(e)

ADDRESS: 400 Vargas Road & SITE AREA: 4.31 acres

6520 Lynch Lane

PROPERTY OWNER: Vargas Properties I LTD & Jayco Holdings I LTD (Jay Chernosky)

AGENT: Thrower Design, LLC (A. Ron Thrower)

CASE MANAGER: Nancy Estrada (512-974-7617, nancy.estrada@austintexas.gov)

# **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The Staff recommendation is to grant general commercial – conditional overlay – density bonus 90 – neighborhood plan (CS-CO-DB90-NP) combining district zoning for Tract 1 and neighborhood commercial – density bonus 90 – neighborhood plan (LR-DB90-NP) combining district zoning for Tract 2 and to modify the ground floor Pedestrian-Oriented Commercial Spaces requirement.

The Conditional Overlay prohibits Automotive Rentals, Automotive Repairs & Services, Automotive Sales, Automotive Washing (of any type), Bail Bond Services, Commercial Off-Street Parking, Drop-Off Recycling Collection Facility, Exterminating Services, Pawn Shop Services, Adult Oriented Businesses, Agricultural Sales & Service, Commercial Blood & Plasma Center, Construction Sales & Service, Kennels, Vehicle Storage and limits the Impervious Cover to 80%. For a summary of the basis of Staff's recommendation, please see pages 3 - 5.

## PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION / RECOMMENDATION:

June 11, 2024: APPROVED CS-CO-DB90-NP COMBINED DISTRICT ZONING FOR TRACT 1 and LR-DB90-NP COMBINED DISTRICT ZONING FOR TRACT 2.

[C. Hempel; A. Woods – 2<sup>nd</sup>] (7-0) G. Anderson, A. Phillips, A. Haynes, J. Mushtaler, – Off the dias; N. Barrera-Ramirez, G. Cox – Absent

April 11, 2023: APPROVED CS-MU-CO-NP COMBINED DISTRICT ZONING FOR TRACT 1, with ADDED CONDITIONS and LR-MU-NP COMBINED DISTRICT ZONING FOR TRACT 2. The Conditional Overlay prohibits the following uses on Tract 1: Automotive

Rentals, Automotive Repairs & Services, Automotive Sales, Automotive Washing (of any type), Bail Bond Services, Commercial Off-Street Parking, Drop-Off Recycling Collection Facility, Exterminating Services, Off-Site Accessory Parking, Pawn Shop Services, Adult Oriented Businesses, Agricultural Sales & Service, Commercial Blood & Plasma Center, Construction Sales & Service, Kennels, Vehicle Storage and limits the Impervious Cover to 80%.

[G. Cox; J. Mushtaler – 2<sup>ND</sup>] (12-0) Y. FLORES – ABSENT

- March 28, 2023: Approved a postponement request by the neighborhood to April 11, 2023 [J. Thompson; C. Hempel  $-2^{nd}$ ] (13-0) G. Anderson Nay on Item 34
- March 14, 2023: Approved a staff postponement request to March 28, 2023 [R. Schneider; C. Hempel 2<sup>nd</sup>] (9-0) Y. Flores, J. Mushtaler, J. Shieh, and J. Thompson Absent
- February 28, 2023: Approved a staff postponement request to March 14, 2023 [R. Schneider; P. Howard  $-2^{nd}$ ] (11-0) Y. Flores Absent; One vacancy on the dais
- January 24, 2023: Approved a staff postponement request to February 28, 2023 [C. Hempel; J. Shieh 2<sup>nd</sup>] (10-0) A. Azhar, R. Schneider Absent; One vacancy on the dais

## CITY COUNCIL ACTION:

#### July 18, 2024:

April 4, 2024: APPROVED AN INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT REQUEST BY THE APPLICANT

VOTE: 10-0. Council Member A. Alter was off the dais.

February 29, 2024: APPROVED A POSTPONEMENT REQUEST BY THE APPLICANT TO APRIL 4, 2024.

VOTE: 11-0.

January 18, 2024: APPROVED A POSTPONEMENT REQUEST BY THE APPLICANT TO FEBRUARY 29, 2024.

*VOTE: 11-0.* 

November 30, 2023: APPROVED A POSTPONEMENT REQUEST BY THE APPLICANT TO JANUARY 18, 2024.

VOTE: 10-0. Council Member R. Alter was absent.

October 19, 2023: SECOND READING APPROVED AS PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDED.

*VOTE: 10-0. Council Member Harper-Madison was absent.* 

September 14, 2023: FIRST READING APPROVED AS PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDED.

VOTE: 7-0. Mayor Pro Tem Ellis, Council Members Harper-Madison, A. Alter, and Pool off the dais.

July 20, 2023: APPROVED A POSTPONEMENT REQUEST BY THE APPLICANT TO SEPTEMBER 14, 2023.

*VOTE: 10-0. Council Member Fuentes was off the dais.* 

## ORDINANCE NUMBER:

## **ISSUES:**

On April 11, 2023, the Planning Commission made the recommendation of (CS-MU-CO-NP) with added conditions for Tract 1 and (LR-MU-NP) combining district zoning for Tract 2 of the subject property. The applicant requested an Indefinite Postponement at City Council on April 4, 2024. Subsequently, the applicant has amended their rezoning application to request the new (DB90) combining district and to modify the (DB90) ordinance ground floor Pedestrian-Oriented Commercial Spaces requirement per Section 25-2-652 (F)(3)(e). *Please see Attachment A.* 

Currently the newly created density bonus 90 (DB90) combining district ordinance requires that when a site abuts a principal street, 75 percent of the ground floor of the building must contain one or more commercial uses. However, the ordinance allows for modifying this requirement if the site abuts an urban roadway, suburban roadway, highway, or hill country roadway. The subject property abuts both a highway and two urban roadways, both of which are eligible roadways to request this modification.

The site has frontage on US Hwy 183 which is a high traffic and high speed highway. There are not any traffic lights or pedestrian oriented uses along this section of frontage road. The property is also adjacent to Vargas Road and Saxon Lane which are both surrounded by single family residences. Vargas Road connects to US Hwy 183 while Saxon Road is a low traffic residential collector that is a dead end street.

This site is not located in an area that has existing ground floor assets or enough household density to support the amount of ground floor commercial required by the code. Further, this site is not within a geographic area where the City is actively promoting or enhancing small business development. Therefore, Staff recommends granting the applicant's modification request to not require pedestrian-oriented commercial space.

## CASE MANAGER COMMENTS:

The subject undeveloped and un-platted tracts are located west of US-Hwy 183, between Vargas Road and Saxon Lane. The property is two tracts that total 4.31 acres. The larger Tract 1 is 3.76 acres with frontage along US Hwy 183 and is north of Vargas Road and south

of Saxon Lane. The smaller Tract 2 is 0.55 acres and is located north of the intersection at Vargas Road and Lynch Lane. Tract 1 fronts both Vargas Road and Saxon Lane and is zoned GR-NP. Tract 2 fronts Vargas Road and Lynch Lane and is zoned LR-NP. Both tracts are located within the Montopolis Neighborhood Planning Area.

There are some commercial uses to the north (GR-NP); however, single family residences surround both tracts to the north, west and south (SF-3-NP); townhouse / condominium residences and neighborhood commercial are also to the west across Saxon Lane (SF-6-NP; LR-NP). Directly to the east across Vargas Road are a neighborhood park and a learning center (SF-3-NP). An elementary school and pre-school are also in the area. *Please refer to Exhibits A (Zoning Map) and A-1 (Aerial)*.

The applicant has amended their request to (CS-DB90-NP) for the larger Tract 1 and to (LR-DB90-NP) for Tract 2. Future access is proposed for both Vargas Road and Saxon Lane. Currently there is not a proposed conceptual plan.

Staff is recommending (CS-CO-DB90-NP) for Tract 1 with a Conditional Overlay that consists of prohibited uses listed above and (LR-DB90-NP) for Tract 2. When Planning Commission previously made their recommendation, this Conditional Overlay was included. The Applicant is in agreement with the Conditional Overlay that has been incorporated in the Staff recommendation.

## BASIS OF RECOMMENDATION:

1. The proposed zoning should be consistent with the purpose statement of the district sought.

The proposed general commercial services (CS) district zoning is intended for commercial or industrial uses that typically have operating characteristics or traffic service requirements generally incompatible with residential environments.

The neighborhood commercial (LR) district is intended for providing business services and office facilities for the residents of a neighborhood.

The Conditional Overlay (CO) combining district may be applied in combination with any base district. The district is intended to provide flexible and adaptable use or site development regulations by requiring standards tailored to individual properties. The staff recommends prohibiting the more intensive commercial uses such as Automotive, Bail Bond Services, Commercial Off-Street Parking, Drop-Off Recycling Collection Facility, Exterminating Services, Pawn Shop Services, Adult Oriented Businesses, Agricultural Sales & Services, Commercial Blood & Plasma Center, Construction Sales & Services, Kennels, and Vehicle Storage on this property as these uses are not compatible with residential uses or near a public school.

The Density Bonus 90 (DB90) combining district, in exchange for providing affordable housing units and in combination with commercial base zoning districts, allows a mixture

of office, retail, commercial, and residential uses with modifications of compatibility standards and site development regulations including increased building height.

The neighborhood plan (NP) district denotes a tract located within the boundaries of an adopted Neighborhood Plan.

2. Zoning changes should promote compatibility with adjacent and nearby uses.

Staff recommends CS-CO-DB90-NP and LR-DB90-NP zoning given its access to an arterial street, US-Hwy 183, and collector streets, Vargas Road and Saxon Lane, as well as its adjacency to residential, multifamily, and civic properties.

3. The proposed zoning should allow for a reasonable use of the property.

The proposed CS-CO-DB90-NP and LR-DB90-NP zoning will permit the applicant to redevelop the property for future residential use. Although a modification to the required ground floor commercial space is being requested, office, civic and low intensity commercial uses and services can still be provided to the surrounding community.

# EXISTING ZONING AND LAND USES:

	ZONING	LAND USES
Site	GR-NP; LR-NP	Undeveloped
North	GR-NP; SF-3-NP	Single family residences; Religious assembly; US-183
		Hwy
South	SF-3-NP; SF-4A-NP	Single family residences; Elementary school
East	SF-3-NP; CS-NP;	Civitan Neighborhood Park; Pre-school; Multi-family
	CS-MU-CO-NP; LR-	
	MU-CO-NP	
West	LR-NP; SF-3-NP;	Single family residences
	SF-6-NP	

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AREA: Montopolis

WATERSHED: Country Club East Creek - Suburban; Colorado River Creek - Urban

CAPITOL VIEW CORRIDOR: No SCENIC ROADWAY: No

SCHOOLS:

Allison Elementary School Martin Middle School Eastside Memorial High School

**COMMUNITY REGISTRY LIST:** 

Austin Neighborhoods Council Austin Independent School District SEL Texas Sierra Group, Austin Regional Group

Preservation Austin Austin Lost and Found Pets

Friends of Austin Neighborhoods Homeless Neighborhood Association

Carson Ridge Neighborhood Association Crossing Gardenhome Owners Assn. (The)

Del Valle Community Coalition East Austin Conservancy

Montopolis Community Alliance Montopolis Neighborhood Association

Montopolis Tributary Trail Association Pleasant Valley

Vargas Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Empowerment Foundation

Montopolis Neighborhood Association Plan Contact Team (MNPCT)

Montopolis-Ponca Neighborhood Association Montopolis Community Development Corporation El Concilio Mexican-American Neighborhoods

# **AREA CASE HISTORIES:**

NUMBER	REQUEST	COMMISSION	CITY COUNCIL
C14-2020-0044 -	SF-3-NP to	To Grant SF-6-NP	Apvd SF-6-NP as
Saxon Acres	SF-6-NP		Commission
Residential			recommended
Zoning – 316			(12-10-2020).
Saxon Ln & 6328			
El Mirando St.			
C14-2014-0176 -	SF-3-NP to	To Grant SF-4A-CO-	Apvd SF-4A-NP
Cuellar Rezoning –	SF-4A-NP	NP, w/CO limiting the	(4-16-2015).
617 Thrasher Ln		floor-to-area ratio to	
		0.4:1	

RELATED CASES: NPA-2022-0005.01

The Montopolis Neighborhood Plan Area was adopted on September 27, 2001 (NP-05-0020; C14-05-0105 – Ordinance No. 010927-05)

# **ADDITIONAL STAFF COMMENTS:**

# <u>Drainage</u>

The developer is required to submit a pre- and post-development drainage analysis at the subdivision and site plan stage of the development process. The City's Land Development Code and Drainage Criteria Manual require that the Applicant demonstrate through engineering analysis that the proposed development will have no identifiable adverse impact on surrounding properties.

## Environmental

The site is not located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. The site is in the Country Club East Creek Watershed classified as a Suburban Watershed and Colorado River Creek Watershed of the Colorado River Basin classified as an Urban Watershed by Chapter 25-8 of the City's Land Development Code. The site is in the Desired Development Zone.

Under current watershed regulations, development or redevelopment on this site within the suburban watershed will be subject to the following impervious cover limits:

Development Classification	% of Gross Site Area	% of Gross Site Area
		with Transfers
Single-Family	50%	60%
(minimum lot size 5750 sq. ft.)		
Other Single-Family or Duplex	55%	60%
Multifamily	60%	70%
Commercial	80%	90%

Zoning district impervious cover limits apply in the Urban Watershed classification. According to floodplain maps there is no floodplain within or adjacent to the project location.

Standard landscaping and tree protection will be required in accordance with LDC 25-2 and 25-8 for all development and/or redevelopment.

At this time, site specific information is unavailable regarding vegetation, areas of steep slope, or other environmental features such as bluffs, springs, canyon rimrock, caves, sinkholes, and wetlands.

Under current watershed regulations, development or redevelopment requires water quality control with increased capture volume and control of the 2-year storm on site.

At this time, no information has been provided as to whether this property has any preexisting approvals that preempt current water quality or Code requirements.

## PARD – Planning & Design Review

Parkland dedication will be required at the time of subdivision or site plan application for new residential units, per City Code § 25-1-601, as amended. The proposed development meets the criteria for land dedication in City Code Title 25, Article 14. As such, a partial land dedication may be required, as well as any remaining fees in-lieu.

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) would consider a connection to Civitan Neighborhood Park from Saxon Lane and possibly El Mirando Street toward satisfying the requirement at time of permitting (whether subdivision or site plan). Such a connection would improve neighborhood connectivity to parkland, a criterion for dedication per City Code Title 25, Article 14.

Should there be any remaining fees in-lieu, those fees shall be used toward park investments in the form of land acquisition and/or park amenities within the surrounding area, per the Parkland Dedication Operating Procedures § 14.3.11 and City Code § 25-1-607 (B)(1) & (2).

Should the applicant wish to discuss parkland dedication requirements in advance of site plan or subdivision applications, please contact this reviewer: thomas.rowlinson@austintexas.gov. At the applicant's request, PARD can provide an early determination letter of the requirements as stated in this review.

# Site Plan and Compatibility Standards

Site plans will be required for any new development other than single-family, two-family or duplex residential.

Any development which occurs in an SF-6 or less restrictive zoning district which is located 540-feet or less from property in an SF-5 or more restrictive zoning district will be subject to compatibility development regulations. The site is subject to compatibility standards due to the adjacent SF-3 district to the west.

Any new development is subject to Subchapter E. Design Standards and Mixed Use. Additional comments will be made when the site plan is submitted.

# Airport Overlay

The site is located within Austin-Bergstrom Overlay {Controlled Compatible Land Use Area}. No use will be allowed that creates electrical interference with navigational signals or radio communications between airport and aircraft, makes it difficult for pilots to distinguish between the airport lights and others, results in glare in the eyes of pilots using the airport, impairs visibility in the vicinity of the airport, creates bird strike hazards or otherwise in any way endanger or interfere with the landing, taking off, or maneuvering of aircrafts intending to use the Austin-Bergstrom Airport. Height limitations and incompatible uses with each Airport Overlay zone are established in the Airport Overlay Ordinance. Airport Hazard Zoning Committee review may be required prior to Planning Commission Hearing.

# ATD Engineering Review

## ASMP Assessment

The Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) calls for 72 feet of right-of-way for Vargas Road. It is recommended that 36 feet of right-of-way from the existing centerline should be dedicated for Vargas Road according to the Transportation Plan with the first subdivision or site plan application. [LDC 25-6-51 and 25-6-55].

The Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) calls for 64 feet of right-of-way for Saxon Lane. It is recommended that 32 feet of right-of-way from the existing centerline should be dedicated for Saxon Lane according to the Transportation Plan with the first subdivision or site plan application. [LDC 25-6-51 and 25-6-55].

The adjacent street characteristics table is provided below:

Name	ASMP Classification	ASMP Required ROW	Existing ROW	Existing Pavement	Sidewalks	Bicycle Route	Capital Metro (within 1/4 mile)
Vargas Road	Level 2 – Collector	72'	54'	39'	Yes	N/A	Yes
Saxon Lane	Level 1 – Residential Collector	64'	56'	30'	No	Wide Curb Lane	Yes

# Transportation Assessment

A TIA is not required. A Neighborhood Traffic Analysis is required and will be performed for this project by ATD staff. Results will be provided in a separate memo. [LDC 25-6-114]. *Please see Attachment D.* 

# **Austin Water Utility**

The landowner intends to serve the site with City of Austin water and wastewater utilities. The landowner, at own expense, will be responsible for providing any water and wastewater utility improvements, offsite main extensions, utility relocations and or abandonments required by the land use. The water and wastewater utility plan must be reviewed and approved by Austin Water for compliance with City criteria and suitability for operation and maintenance.

Based on current public infrastructure configurations, it appears that service extension requests (SER) will be required to provide service to this lot. For more information pertaining to the Service Extension Request process and submittal requirements contact the Austin Water SER team at ser@austintexas.gov.

The landowner must pay the City inspection fee with the utility construction. The landowner must pay the tap and impact fee once the landowner makes an application for a City of Austin water and wastewater utility tap permit.

# INDEX OF EXHIBITS AND ATTACHMENTS TO FOLLOW:

Exhibit A: Zoning Map

Exhibits A-1: Aerial Maps (2) Exhibit B: Zoning Application Map

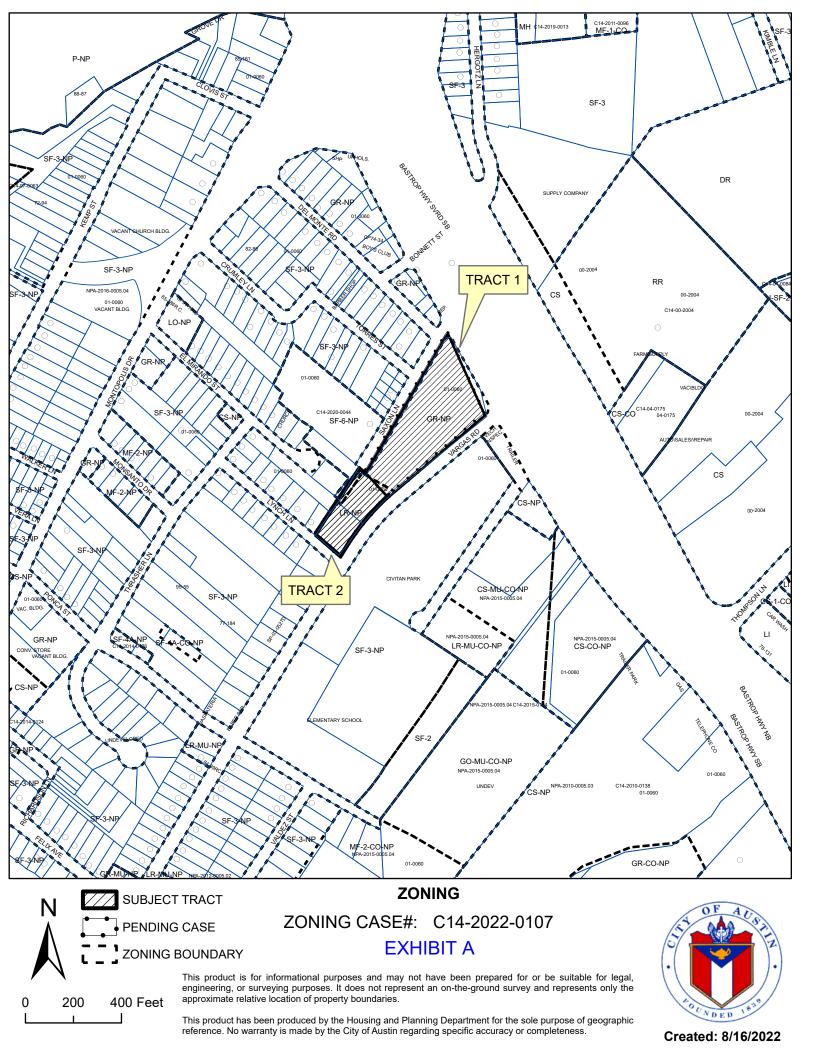
Attachment A: Applicant's (DB90) Commercial Modification Request Letter

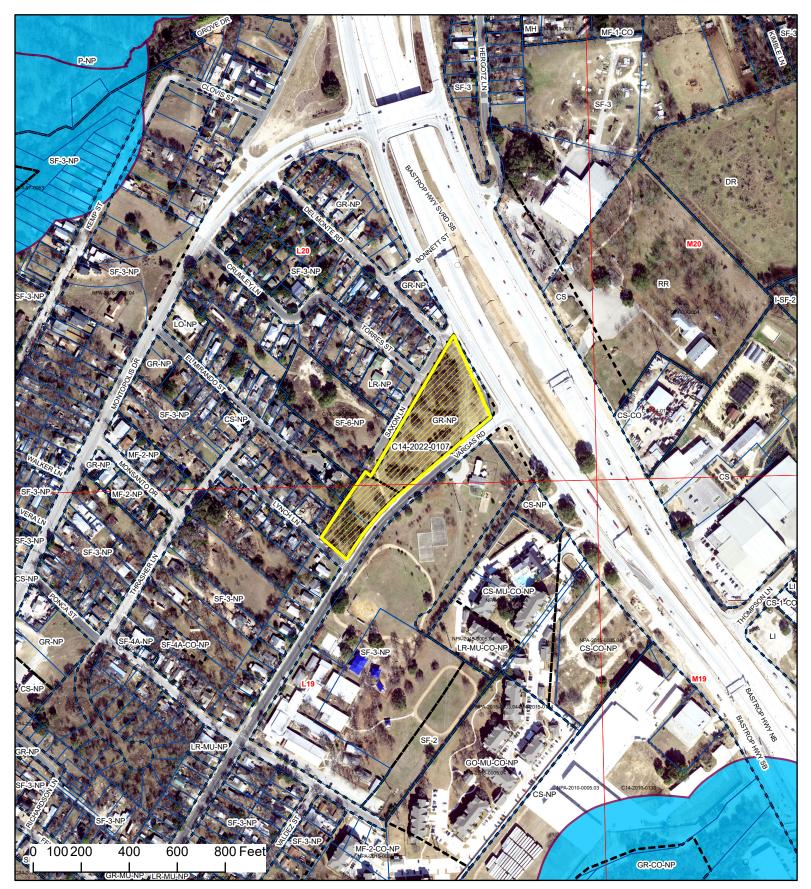
Attachment B: Applicant's Indefinite Postponement and Amendment Request Letter

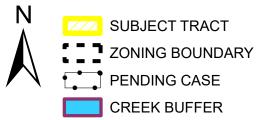
Attachment C: Applicant's Summary Letter

Attachment D: Neighborhood Traffic Analysis (NTA)

Correspondence







# **Vargas Mixed Use**

**EXHIBIT A-1** 

ZONING CASE#: C14-2022-0107

LOCATION: 400 Vargas Rd; 6520 Lynch Ln

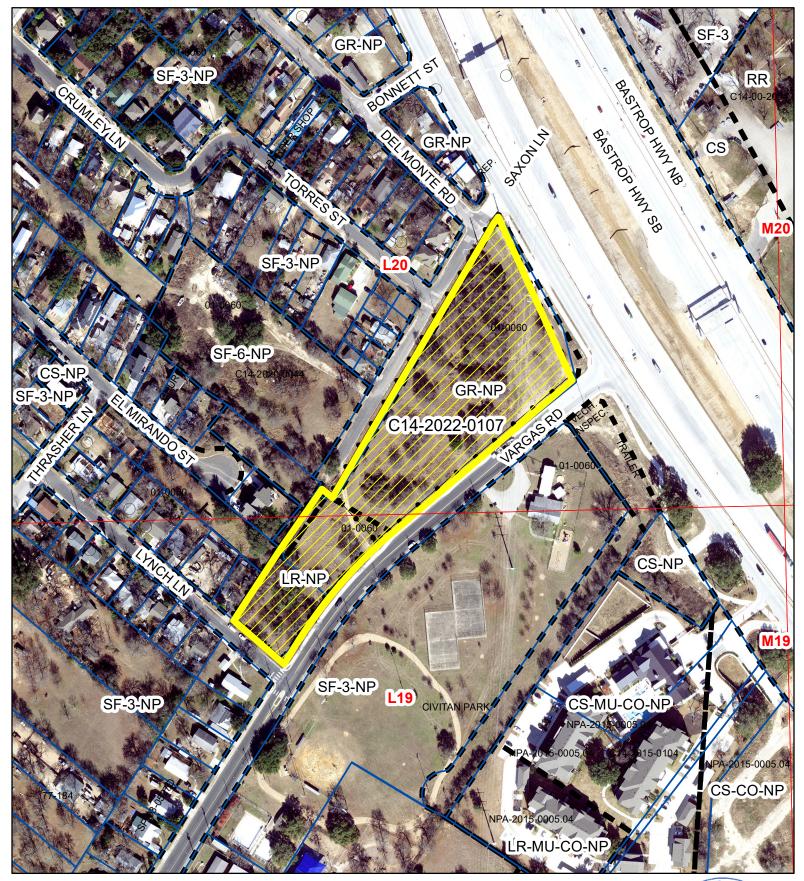
SUBJECT AREA: 4.3 Acres GRID: L19, L20

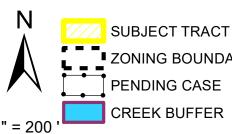
MANAGER: Nancy Estrada



Created: 3/14/2023

This product has been produced by the Housing and Planning Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.





# Vargas Mixed Use

# **EXHIBIT A-1**

ZONING BOUNDARY

ZONING CASE#: C14-2022-0107

LOCATION: 400 Vargas Rd & 6520 Lynch Ln

SUBJECT AREA: 4.30 Acres
GRID: L19, L20
MANAGER: Nancy Estrada



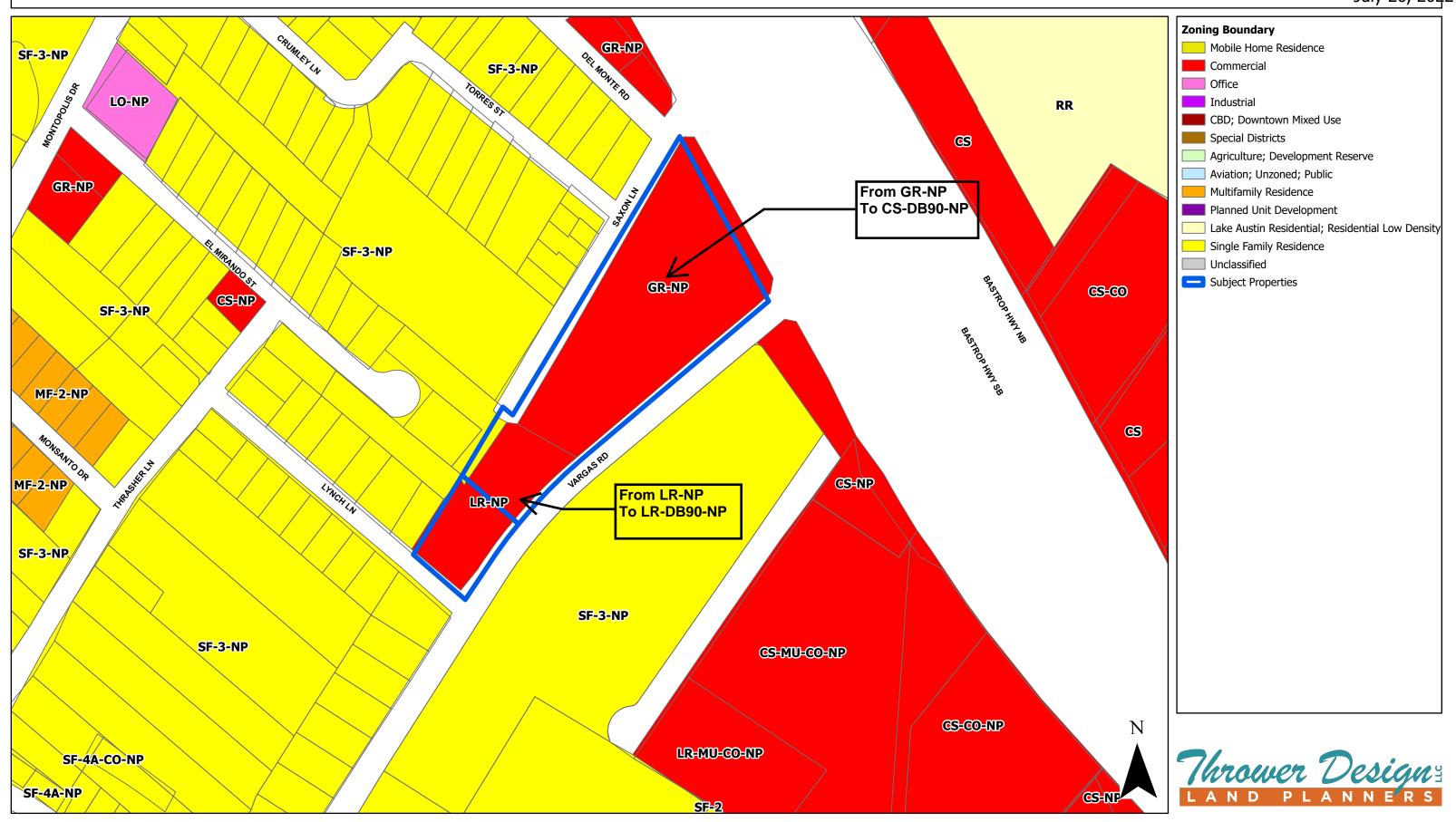
Created: 9/1/2022 by: MeeksS

# Vargas Mixed Use - 400 Vargas Rd. & 6520 Lynch Lane

0.07

0.15

Zoning Application
July 26, 2022



0.3 Miles



June 6, 2024

Ms. Lauren Middleton-Pratt, Director Planning Department City of Austin 1000 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, Texas 78702

RE: C14-2022-0107 - Vargas Mixed Use Rezoning -

DB90 Commercial Waiver

Dear Ms. Middleton-Pratt,

We respectfully request consideration to waive the requirements for ground floor commercial uses with this rezoning of the subject property. While the granting of this waiver does not eliminate potential ground floor commercial use, a granting of this waiver will provide the most flexibility to accommodate any recognized demand for commercial space at the time of development.

Pursuant to Section 25-2-652(F)(3)(2), the City is authorized to waive ground floor commercial requirements with the rezoning to include the DB90 Overlay along roadways that are designated as (i) Urban Roadway and (iii) Highway.

The subject property has frontage on three roadways / classifications – US 183 Frontage Road – Highway
Saxon Lane – Urban Roadway
Vargas Road – Urban Roadway

Taking these roadways individually for the context along the roadway type with the area development and the justifications for the waiver request, we provide as follows:

**US 183 Frontage Road** – This is a mile-long, high-traffic, high-speed roadway with this section connecting Montopolis Drive with the Toll Road of US 183 / SH 71 / Ben White Blvd. There are not any traffic lights along this segment of frontage road and the only through street connecting US 183 to E. Riverside Drive is Vargas Road (which abuts the subject property). The US 183 Frontage Road does not have any pedestrian oriented uses today and the only commercial uses

P.O. BOX 41957, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704 1507 INGLEWOOD ST., AUSTIN, TEXAS 78741 found along the roadway today are a small roofing company, a large self-storage, and a contractor yard. Other uses include apartments, a church, a school, a small day care, and a park. US 183 is a recent roadway redeveloped in Austin and was not planned well for future growth with assumptions for mixed-use development. Important to note is that no commercial uses are found at the intersection of Montopolis and US 183. This is a very busy intersection and is the prime node for commercial space and the market is clearly not demanding commercial space for this intersection at this time.



Our position is that this roadway 'could' support commercial uses in the future, but a requirement for ground-floor, pedestrian oriented uses are not conducive along a roadway that is high-traffic and high-speed with little connectivity. Therefore, we respectfully request consideration to not mandate ground-floor pedestrian oriented commercial space with this rezoning and allow for the building to organically include those uses at the time of development should the area find demand for such uses.

**Saxon Lane** – This very low traffic road is a dead-end street with only single-family homes today, though a small-yield multifamily development is planned across the street from the subject property. There are two roadways, Del Monte Street and Torres Street, that connect Saxon Lane to Montopolis Road, and both are narrow roadways with single-family homes. Torres Street has two sharp bends in the middle of the roadway segment that eliminate all visibility from Montopolis Drive. Del Monte Street intersects Saxon Lane very close to the intersection with US 183 due to the state acquisition of land creating a substandard traffic condition.



Our position is that Saxon Lane lacks the connectivity requirements to support ground-floor pedestrian oriented commercial space, the traffic along this roadway is very low, and the necessary visibility to attract these uses is non-existent. Therefore, we respectfully request consideration to not mandate ground-floor pedestrian oriented uses with this rezoning.

**Vargas Road** – This road is a neighborhood collector and is the only road that connects US 183 with Montopolis Road. Directly across Vargas Road from the subject property is a small day care and a city park. Next to the park is Allison Elementary School. Both sides of Vargas Road have single-family homes with the exception of two areas – 1) Closer to E. Riverside Drive are more dense apartments and an Idea School – all of which are proximate to the future Blue Line of Project Connect, 2) The intersection of Vargas Road and Felix Avenue is a node for very small, neighborhood oriented commercial spaces. The buildings are one-story, small in size and on small parcels. Most of these buildings are boarded up with no commercial activity. Most older neighborhoods were developed with these types of nodes interior to the neighborhood, and this is how pedestrian oriented uses should be planned – interior to the neighborhood with

neighborhood serving uses. However, it is clear that there is simply not enough economic viability for the uses to survive with most of the spaces having been vacant for many years.



Our position is that if pedestrian oriented commercial spaces were to be viable in the area, the intersection of Vargas Road and Felix Avenue is the prime spot for those commercial uses and that intersection should be maintained as an option for those types of uses to come back in the future. Therefore, we respectfully request consideration to not mandating ground-floor pedestrian oriented uses with this rezoning as a hope to bring back the much coveted, interior neighborhood serving commercial space which should be a priority.





# **North-West Corner**



# **North-East Corner**



# **South-East Corner**



For the reasons above with the context provided, we respectfully request that commercial space of any type should not be a requirement of this rezoning of the subject property. While a

development of the subject property could include commercial space, the market can better ascertain the need at the time of development. It is quite possible that some commercial space may be located on the ground floor, though it may not be pedestrian oriented commercial spaces due to the lack of connectivity, the high-speed traffic of the highway, and the hope that the interior commercial node may come back to life in the future.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A. Ron Thrower

a. Ron Thrower



March 29, 2024

Ms. Lauren Middleton-Pratt, Director Planning Department City of Austin 1000 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, Texas 78702

RE: C14-2022-0107 - Vargas Mixed Use Rezoning -

Application amendment for DB90 Overlay & Postponement Request

Dear Ms. Middleton-Pratt,

Pursuant to Ordinance 20240229-073, adopted by the Austin City Council on February 29, 2024, with an effective date of March 11, 2024, the City of Austin is directing additional housing development in areas of Austin where appropriate through the DB90 Overlay. Our position is that this project meets the requirements to receive the DB90 Overlay and therefore, on behalf of the Landowners, we respectfully amend the application to request the addition of the DB90 Overlay. More specifically, the amended request is follows:

Tract 1 – From GR-NP (existing) to CS-DB90-NP (requested)

Tract 2 – From LR-NP (existing) to LR-DB90-NP (requested)

Further, under Section 25-2-652(F)(3) within the DB90 Ordinance, there is a Mix of Uses requirement related to DB90 projects. While a mix of uses certainly makes for an active street, not all properties can have a mix of uses for varying reasons. Pursuant to Section 25-2-652(F)(3)(e), the rezoning to add DB90 can modify Section 25-2-652(F)(3)(b) that requires the Pedestrian Oriented uses along certain Principal Streets. In this case, the project is located on 2 Urban Roadways – Vargas Road and Lynch Lane, both of which are qualifying Principal Roadways to waive the requirement. The justification to waive the requirement is that these roadways are interior to a single-family zoned subdivision where the level of commercial activation envisioned with DB90 may not be appropriate or successful. However, the Hwy 183 frontage is appropriate and therefore, we are not requesting to waive the requirement from this frontage.

P.O. BOX 41957, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704 1507 INGLEWOOD ST., AUSTIN, TEXAS 78741 For all the reasons here, we submit the amended request to add the DB90 Overlay and respectfully request to waive the requirement for the mix of uses for the Vargas Road and Lynch Lane frontages. Further, we are also requesting an indefinite postponement of the rezoning case to allow Staff and Planning Commission to review the amended rezoning request.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A. Ron Thrower

a. Ron Thrower

July 26, 2022

Ms. Rosie Trulove Housing & Planning Department City of Austin 1000 E 11<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, TX 78702 Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Rezoning of 4300 Vargas Rd. & 6520 Lynch Lane, Austin, 78741 - Vargas Mixed Use

Dear Ms. Trulove:

On behalf of the Owner(s) of the property referenced above, we respectfully submit the enclosed package including Neighborhood Plan Amendment and Rezoning applications. The subject lands are comprised of Tract 1 at 4300 Vargas Road & Tract 2 at 6520 Lynch Lane – both are un-platted and undeveloped. The Tracts are located within Council District 3, represented by "Pio" Renteria and are within the Montopolis Neighborhood Planning Area.

Both Tract 1 & 2 are designated as *Commercial* on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM). Tract 1 is zoned *GR-NP* (*Community Commercial – Neighborhood Plan*) and Tract 2 is zoned *LR-NP* (*Neighborhood Commercial – Neighborhood Plan*). The request is to amend the FLUM to *Mixed Use* for Tracts 1 & 2 and to rezone Tract 1 to *CS-MU-NP* (*General Commercial Services – Mixed Use – Neighborhood Plan*) and to rezone Tract 2 to *LR-MU-NP* (*Neighborhood Commercial – Mixed Use – Neighborhood Plan*). The site is contemplating a mixed-use development that could accommodate up to 149 multifamily dwelling units.

With frontage on three roadways, Saxon Lane, Vargas Road and Hwy 183, the site offers a good opportunity for a mixed-use development that could bring variety of dwelling types as well as neighborhood serving commercial uses, within in walking or biking distance. Vargas Lane has existing bus service with a stop that is less than a ¼ mile south. Montopolis Drive, an ASMP Transit Priority Network, is within a ¼ mile, by walking path. The request for infill density at this location is supported by several Imagine Austin Principles:

1. Creating complete neighborhoods across Austin that provide a mix of housing types to suit a variety of household needs and incomes, offering a variety of transportation options, and having easy

access to daily needs such as schools, retail, employment, community services, and parks and recreations options.

- 2. Supporting the development of compact and connected activity centers and corridors that are well-served by public transit and designed to promote walking and bicycling as a way of reducing household expenditures for housing and transportation.
- 3. Protecting neighborhood character by ensuring context-sensitive development and directing more intensive development to activity centers, corridors, redevelopment, and infill site.
- 4. Expanding the number and variety of housing choices throughout Austin to meet the financial and lifestyle needs of our diverse population.
- 5. Ensuring harmonious transitions between adjacent land uses and development intensities.
- 6. Protecting Austin's natural resources and environmental systems by limiting land use and transportation development over environmentally sensitive areas and preserving open space and protecting the function of the resource.
- 7. Encouraging active and healthy lifestyles by promoting walking and biking, healthy food choices, access to affordable healthcare, and to recreational opportunities.

Please contact our office or me directly should you have need for additional information. Thank you for your time and attention to this application.

Kind regards,

Victoria Haase

cc: Heather Chaffin, Housing & Planning Department (via electronic delivery)



## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Victoria Haase (Thrower Design)
CC: Amber Hutchens; Maria Cardenas

**FROM:** Nathan Aubert, P.E. (ATD)

**DATE:** March 1, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Vargas Mixed Use NTA (C14-2022-0107)

The Transportation Development Services (TDS) division has performed a Neighborhood Traffic Analysis (NTA) for the above referenced case and offers the following comments.

The zoning case for Vargas Mixed Use is in south Austin at 400 Vargas Rd and 6520 Lynch Ln (see Figure 1); the total area of both these tracts is 4.3 acres. The site is currently zoned GR-NP, LR-NP. The applicant is looking to rezone this tract to CS-MU-NP, LR-MU-NP.



Figure 1: Site Location

## **Roadways**

Given that the details of the project were not available City staff while conducting the NTA, it was inferred that the proposed site would be accessible via Vargas Rd and Saxon Ln. It is important to note that without a clear understanding of the project details, this assumption may need to be re-evaluated as more information becomes available.

**Vargas Rd** is classified as a Level 2 roadway and varies between 45 and 50 feet of right-of-way and 31 to 35 feet of pavement width. Vargas Rd has two striped lanes, curb and gutter, sidewalks on both sides of the street. There is no bicycle infrastructure on either side of the street. The current ASMP calls for 72 feet of right-of-way to satisfy the improvements identified for future bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The 24-hour counts collected October 2022 show that Vargas Rd experiences an average daily volume of 1,669 vehicles per day (vpd).

**Saxon Ln** is classified as a Level 1 roadway. North of Torres St, the right-of-way measures 45 feet, while south of Torres St, it measures 40 feet. The pavement width is approximately 25 feet, with two unstriped lanes. Saxon Lane currently has no sidewalks or bike facilities on either side of the street. The current ASMP calls for 58 or 64 feet of right-of-way to accommodate future pedestrian facilities and on street parking. According to the 24-hour counts collected February 2023, Saxon Ln experiences an average daily volume of 872 vpd.

# **Trip Generation and Traffic Analysis**

This zoning case assumes 149 low-rise multifamily dwelling units (ITE Code 220). Based on the Institute of Transportation Engineer's <u>Trip Generation Manual</u>, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, the proposed development will generate 1,030 vehicle trips per day. See Table 1 for a detailed breakdown of the trip generation.

**Table 1 - Trip Generation** 

Land Use	Size	Unadjusted Trip Generation	
Residential (Low-Rise Multifamily Housing)	149 DU	1,030	
TOTAL		1,030	

Table 2 provides the expected distribution of site trips throughout the study area.

Table 2 - Trip Distribution

Street	Traffic Distribution by Percent
Vargas Rd	65%
Saxon Ln	35%

Table 3 represents a summary of traffic on Vargas Road and Saxon Lane: existing traffic, proposed site traffic, total traffic after development, and percentage increase in traffic.

**Table 3 - Traffic Summary** 

Street	Existing Traffic (vpd)	Proposed New Site Traffic to Roadway	Overall Traffic	Percentage Increase in Traffic
Vargas Road	1,669	670	2,339	40.1%
Saxon Lane	872	360	1,232	41.2%

According to Section 25-6-116 of the Land Development Code, streets which have a pavement width of less than 30 feet are considered to be operating at an undesirable traffic level if the average daily traffic volume for such roadway exceeds 1,200 vehicles per day. Saxon Lane is currently operating at a desirable level and without roadway widening, will operate at undesirable levels with the addition of site traffic.

Streets which have a pavement width between 30 and 40 feet are considered to be operating at an undesirable level if the average daily traffic volume for such a roadway exceeds 1,800 vehicles per day. Vargas Road is currently operating at desirable levels and will operate at undesirable levels with the addition of site traffic.

## **Recommendations/Conclusions**

Based on the results of the NTA, ATD has the following recommendations and conclusions.

- 1. Saxon Lane is missing sidewalk along the frontage of the site. At the time of site plan, this development will be required to complete gaps in the sidewalk network to adhere to ASMP standards.
- 2. At the time of site plan, the development can further reduce its impact on the transportation network by enacting Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures that incentivize the use of alternative methods of transportation. Enacting TDM measures is a proven way to reduce the vehicular trip generation of a site.
- 3. If the development of this property should deviate from the approved intensities and estimated traffic generation within the finalized NTA document, including the assumed access points, TDS may be required to reassess the NTA.
- 4. The City Council may approve a zoning application if it is determined that the applicant has satisfactorily mitigated adverse traffic effects on the residential collector street.
- 5. Street Impact Fee (SIF) Ordinances 20201220-061 and 20201210-062 have been adopted by City Council and are effective as of December 21, 2020. The City has started collecting street impact fees with all building permits issued on or after June 21, 2022. For more information, please visit the City's Street Impact Fee website. Street Impact Fee calculation shall be performed at the time of the Site Plan submission to be collected at the time of building permit.
- 6. Any building permit(s) associated with this development issued on or after June 22, 2022, will be subject to the Street Impact Fee (SIF) program. During site plan review, the Applicant's engineer shall draft a SIF Offset and Allocation Agreement for all eligible improvements to memorialize how offsets are to be applied throughout the

development. The SIF will be calculated and invoiced for each building permit and any required SIF payments shall be made prior to building permit issuance.

The site development permit for the above noted site shall not be released until any required improvements are shown in the site plan. Please contact me at (512) 974-7136 if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Nathan Aubert, P.E.

**Austin Transportation Department** 

**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2023 2:28 PM

**To:** Estrada, Nancy < Nancy. Estrada@austintexas.gov>; Meredith, Maureen

<Maureen.Meredith@austintexas.gov>

**Cc:** Ron Thrower; Harden, Joi < Joi. Harden@austintexas.gov> **Subject:** Vargas Mixed Use - NPA-2022-0005.01 & C14-2022-0107

## External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello Ladies,

We are requesting postponement of the Vargas Mixed Use NPA and rezoning cases to September 14, 2023.

Please confirm receipt of this request.

Thank you, all.

V

Víctoria Haase



**CAUTION:** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please report it using the "Report Message" button in Outlook or forward to <a href="mailto:cybersecurity@austintexas.gov">cybersecurity@austintexas.gov</a>.

Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 3:52 PM

**To:** Estrada, Nancy < Nancy. Estrada@austintexas.gov>; Meredith, Maureen

<Maureen.Meredith@austintexas.gov>

**Cc:** Ron Thrower; Rivera, Andrew <Andrew.Rivera@austintexas.gov>; Harden, Joi

<Joi.Harden@austintexas.gov>

**Subject:** Vargas Mixed Use - NPA-2022-0005.01 & C14-2022-0107

#### External Email - Exercise Caution

Nancy and Maureen,

On behalf of the landowners of the Vargas properties, we request a postponement of the NPA and Rezoning cases to January 18, 2024.

Thank you,

V

Victoria Haase



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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 10:56 AM

**To:** Estrada, Nancy < Nancy. Estrada@austintexas.gov>; Meredith, Maureen

<Maureen.Meredith@austintexas.gov>

**Cc:** Harden, Joi < Joi. Harden@austintexas.gov>; Ron Thrower **Subject:** Vargas Mixed Use - NPA-202-0005.01 & C14-2022-0107

#### External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello Nancy, Maureen, and Joi -

We request a postponement of these cases from the January 18<sup>th</sup> CC agenda to the February 29<sup>th</sup> CC agenda. We are working on possible details for a private agreement related to the development of the property.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

Thank you & Happy New Year! V

Víctoria Haase



512-476-4456 Office

Mail: P.O. Box 41957 Austin, Texas 78704

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Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 3:06 PM

**To:** Estrada, Nancy < Nancy. Estrada@austintexas.gov>; Meredith, Maureen

<Maureen.Meredith@austintexas.gov>

**Cc:** Harden, Joi < Joi. Harden@austintexas.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Vargas Mixed Use - NPA-202-0005.01 & C14-2022-0107

# External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello Ladies,

We need more time and therefore are requesting a postponement of these cases from the February 29<sup>th</sup> meeting to the April 4<sup>th</sup> CC hearing date.

Please confirm receipt of this request.

Thank you,

١/

Victoria Haase



www.throwerdesign.com

512-476-4456 Office

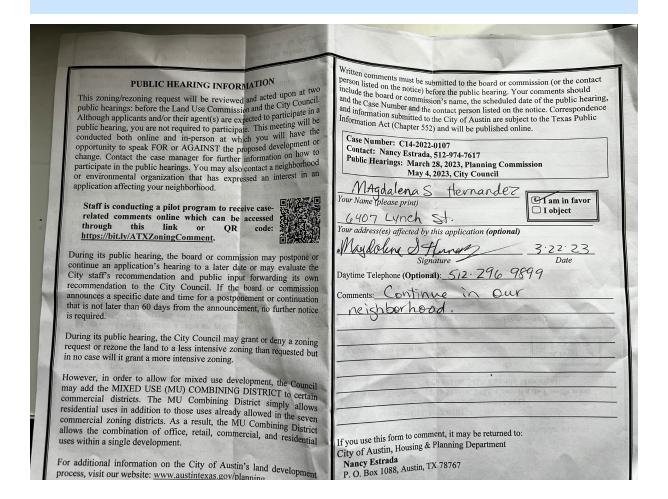
Mail: P.O. Box 41957 Austin, Texas 78704 From: Martha Collins
To: Estrada, Nancy

**Subject:** Re: Magdalena S Hernandez response to CASE C14-2022-0107

**Date:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 1:24:14 PM

You don't often get email from marthacollins15704@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

# \*\*\* External Email - Exercise Caution \*\*\*



On Thu, Mar 23, 2023 at 8:54 AM Martha Collins wrote:

I am forwarding this for my mom, Magdalena S Hernandez wt 6407 Lynch Tx 78741

Thanks Martha Collins

**CAUTION:** This email was received at the City of Austin, from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious and/or phishing email, please forward this email to cybersecurity@austintexas.gov.

## PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

This zoning/rezoning request will be reviewed and acted upon at two public hearings: before the Land Use Commission and the City Council. Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to participate in a public hearing, you are not required to participate. This meeting will be conducted both online and in-person at which you will have the opportunity to speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. Contact the case manager for further information on how to participate in the public hearings. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

Staff is conducting a pilot program to receive caserelated comments online which can be accessed through this link or QR code: https://bit.ly/ATXZoningComment.



Or email to:

nancy.estrada@austintexas.gov

During its public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date or may evaluate the City staff's recommendation and public input forwarding its own recommendation to the City Council. If the board or commission announces a specific date and time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days from the announcement, no further notice is required.

During its public hearing, the City Council may grant or deny a zoning request or rezone the land to a less intensive zoning than requested but in no case will it grant a more intensive zoning.

However, in order to allow for mixed use development, the Council may add the MIXED USE (MU) COMBINING DISTRICT to certain commercial districts. The MU Combining District simply allows residential uses in addition to those uses already allowed in the seven commercial zoning districts. As a result, the MU Combining District allows the combination of office, retail, commercial, and residential uses within a single development.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, visit our website: <a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/planning">www.austintexas.gov/planning</a>.

Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the contact person listed on the notice) before the public hearing. Your comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled date of the public hearing, and the Case Number and the contact person listed on the notice. Correspondence and information submitted to the City of Austin are subject to the Texas Public Information Act (Chapter 552) and will be published online.

Contact: Nancy Estrada, 512-974-7617 Public Hearings: March 28, 2023, Planning Commi May 4, 2023, City Council	ssion
Jaturnina Monreal-Ojedu Your Name (please print) 16321 Torres Street	□ I am in favor ⊠I object
Your address(es) affected by this application (optional)	M
Daturnina M. Geden	March 21, 202
Daytime Telephone (Optional):	
comments: Our community need affordable housing and the property would be ideal for purpose. Commercial Zoni not fit in a residential	us particular Such ing does
I strongly oppose this rezor	your request.
If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to: City of Austin, Housing & Planning Department Nancy Estrada P. O. Boy 1088, Austin, TX 78767	

## PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

This zoning/rezoning request will be reviewed and acted upon at two public hearings: before the Land Use Commission and the City Council. Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to participate in a public hearing, you are not required to participate. This meeting will be conducted both online and in-person at which you will have the opportunity to speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. Contact the case manager for further information on how to participate in the public hearings. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

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Case Number: C14-2022-0107

Contact: Nancy Estrada, 512-974-7617 Public Hearing: July 20, 2023, City Council
FRANK T. MONRENC DIamin favor
Your Name (please print) AUSTINIX I object
209 BONNett St 78741
Your address(es) affected by this application (optional)
Jone T. Morreal 7-10-23
Signature Date
Daytime Telephone (Optional): 512-636-6807
Comments: NO INDUSTRIKE ZONING IN This AREA AND IT Should STAY THAT WAY!
If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to: City of Austin, Planning Department Nancy Estrada P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767 Or email to:

# INFORMACIÓN DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Esta petición de zonificación / rezonificación será revisada y se tomarán medidas en dos reuniones públicas diferentes: antes de la Comisión de Usos Urbanos y el consejo municipal. Aunque se espera que solicitantes y/o su(s) agente(s) se presenten en una audiencia pública, usted no está obligado de atender. Esta reunión se llevará a cabo tanto en línea a través de internet igual como en persona. Por estos medios tendrá la oportunidad de hablar A FAVOR o EN CONTRA del propuesto desarrollo o cambio. Póngase en contacto con el administrador de casos para más información sobre cómo participar en las audiencias públicas. Usted también puede contactar organizaciones ambientales o asociaciones de vecinos que han expresado interés en una aplicación que afecta a su vecindario.

El personal está llevando a cabo un programa piloto para recibir comentarios en línea sobre el caso, al que se puede acceder a través de este enlace o código QR: <a href="https://bit.ly/ATXZoningComment">https://bit.ly/ATXZoningComment</a>.

Durante la audiencia pública, la comisión podría postergar o continuar audiencia del caso en una fecha futura, o puede evaluar la recomendación de los oficiales municipales y las del público al mismo tiempo mandando su recomendación al cabildo municipal. Si la comisión anuncia una fecha y hora específica para postergar o continuar discusión, y no se extiende más de 60 días, no tendrá obligación de otra notificación pública.

El cabildo municipal, durante su audiencia pública, puede otorgar o negar una petición de zonificación, rézonificar el terreno a una clasificación de zonificación menos intensiva que lo que es pedida. En ningún caso se otorgara una clasificación de zonificación más intensiva de la petición.

Para otorgar un desarrollo de usos urbanos mixtos, el cabildo municipal puede agregar la designación USO MIXTO (MU) DISTRITO COMBINADO, Mixed-use (MU) Combining District, a ciertos usos urbanos de comercio. La designación MU- Distrito Combinado simplemente permite usos urbanos residenciales en adición a los usos ya permitidos el los siete distritos con zonificación para comercio. Como resultado, la designación MU- Distrito Combinado, otorga la combinación de oficinas, comercio, y usos urbanos residenciales en el mismo sitio. Para más información acerca del proceso de desarrollo urbano de la ciudad de Austin, por favor visite nuestra página de la Internet: www.austintexas.gov/planning.

Comentarios escritos deberán ser sometidos a la comisión (o a la persona designada en la noticia oficial) antes de la audiencia pública. Sus comentarios deben incluir el nombre de la comisión, la fecha de la audiencia pública, y el número de caso de la persona designada en la noticia oficial. La correspondencia y la información enviada a la Ciudad de Austin están sujetas a la Ley de Información Pública de Texas (Capítulo 552) y seran publicadas en línea.

Numero de caso: C14-2022-0107	
Persona designada: Nancy Estrada, 512-974	
Audiencia Publica: 20 de julio de 2023, Cab	ildo Municipal
Marjon Sandies	☐ A favor
Su nombre (en letra de molde) 1000 Eust Clan Cho vez 1715 E 1002 Eust Clan Cho vez Su domicilia(s) afectado(s) por esta solicitud (en	744s I object
Su domicilio(s) afectado(s) por esta solicitud (op	cional)
Firma	Fecha
Número de teléfono durante el día (Opcional):	12-899-1018
Comentarios:	
	<u></u>
	<del></del> -
- <u> </u>	· =
Si usted usa esta forma para proveer comentarios, City of Austin, Planning Department	puede retornarlos:
Nancy Estrada P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767	
O por correo electrónico a: nancy.estrada@austintexas.gov	