

Steering Committee Members: Stephen L. Amos, Chair Renae Alsobrook, Mark Ashby, Evelyn Fujimoto, Adrienne Goldsberry, Paula Hern, Nick Mehl, William Osborn, Charlie Rice, Paul Shattuck, Shawn Shillington, Erika Tatum, Meghan Yancy

April 28, 2025

Dear Mayor Watson and City Council Members,

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

We write to express our strong opposition to the proposed vacation of Sayers Street (Right-of-Way Vacation Application 2024-128390 LM). This proposal, initiated by Anchor Equities, is scheduled to be heard by the City Council on May 8th, despite earlier unanimous opposition from the Urban Transportation Commission and a formal denial by Director Mendoza of the Transportation and Public Works Department.

The Old West Austin Neighborhood Association (OWANA), alongside Walsh Ventures 2, LLC - owners of 503 and 505 Walsh Street - firmly supports Sayers Street remaining open for public use. This vital corridor plays a critical role in pedestrian safety, service vehicle access, and future development in the area.

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

Sayers Street enables safe and efficient back-of-house functions such as trash collection, delivery access, and transformer placement - keeping them off pedestrian friendly streets like West Sixth and Walsh. Its strategic connection to West Fifth offers a practical route for large service vehicles, avoiding unsafe turns and congestion on narrower streets such as Walsh.

The businesses at 503 and 505 Walsh had relied on Sayers Street for daily operations, including the regular delivery of goods via tractor-trailer. Due to topographical constraints, these trucks cannot access the properties from Walsh Street. The claim in the application that the street is used only by customers of nearby retail shops is demonstrably false.

Furthermore, the proposed "6th and Walsh" mixed-use development - already submitted for permitting - includes 25 affordable housing units and assumes continued public access to Sayers Street. The development's site plan relies on Sayers for sewer access, transformer placement, loading areas, and garage access. Closure of the street would not only block necessary access but also stall the development and increase traffic congestion on an already narrow Walsh Street.

We are concerned that Anchor Equities, which owns adjacent property on both sides of the portion of Sayers in question, seeks to privatize the street to consolidate land for future development. While the applicant has claimed they have no near-term plans to redevelop, such a statement seems inconsistent with current development trends and lacks credibility.

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. The City's own Transportation Code requires unanimous consent from abutting property owners, yet the owners of 503 and 505 Walsh were neither consulted nor supportive of the petition.

We urge the City Council to uphold the public interest and reject the application to vacate Sayers Street. Doing so will preserve a critical street for community access, ensure the success of much-needed affordable housing, and support a walkable, vibrant West Austin.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Stephen L. Amos, Chair

Old West Austin Neighborhood Association

## From the Home of Evelyn M. Fujimoto

29 April 2029

Mayor Kirk Watson and City Council Members Austin City Council City Hall, Council Chamber 301 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701 United States of America

Subject: Item 50: 2024-128390 LM Right-of-Way Vacation

Dear Mayor Watson and City Council Members:

I 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 live in a multi-family housing development located on a block bounded by W. 6<sup>th</sup>, W. 5<sup>th</sup>, Oakland, and Pressler Streets, in close proximity to Sayers Street. The proposed closure would adversely impact my community experience.

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.

# **Evelyn M. Fujimoto**

We are concerned that Anchor Equities, which owns adjacent parcels, is seeking to privatize Sayers for future 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,

Evelyn Fujimoto

1501 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Austin, Texas 78703

+1.832.648.0623

cc: <a href="mailto:christopher.bueckert@austintexas.gov">christopher.bueckert@austintexas.gov</a>

cc: gilda.powers@austintexas.gov

cc: OWANA/Old West Austin Neighborhood Association -

dyn III dyn TD

From: Peggy Pickle

**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 4:54 PM

To: Bueckert, Christopher < Christopher. Bueckert@austintexas.gov>

**Cc:** gilda.powers@austin.rr.gov **Subject:** Don't close Sayers St.

External Email - Exercise Caution

I support keeping Sayers St. open. Item # 50 — 2024— 128390LM

It's preposterous that the City of Austin would even consider closing this street, which provides access to neighbors and businesses. Old West Austin is full of little streets like this, built a century ago before cars and big urban developments ruled. Street grids reflect that, not But these neighborhood streets are no less important to those who live nearby, park, walk and drive them.

I live nearby. Several businesses are serviced by Sayers St. They are back there, minding their own businesses, working for a living. Why would you close their only access road to favor potential future development?

Sincerely,
Peggy Pickle

1301 W. 9 1/2 St. Apt. 201 Austin, TX. 78703 April 29, 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,

I 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.

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 for future 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,

Frank and Jane Lynn

616 Pressler ST

Austin, TX 78703

April 28, 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,

We are writing to you today as property owners in Old West Austin regarding Agenda item 50 on the May 8th City Council hearing. We respectfully request that you register our emphatic opposition to the proposed closing / vacation of Sayers St. which was initiated by Anchor Equities. The proposed vacation of Sayers St. previously received a unanimous opposition vote by the City of Austin Urban Transportation Commission (UTC). Additionally, this proposal was formally denied by the City of Austin Transportation and Public Works Department.

Old West Austin Neighborhood Association (OWANA), in conjunction with the owners of 503 and 505 Walsh St., strongly support Sayers St. remaining <u>open</u>. Sayers St. is absolutely vital to the continuation of pedestrian safety and security as well as for service vehicle access, and the viability of any future development. Sayers St. provides essential infrastructure support such as trash collection, deliveries, and transformer placement all while keeping the same functions *off* pedestrian friendly streets.

You may already be aware that District 9 Council Member Qadri strongly supports the UTC and staff recommendations to keep Walsh St. open based on the well established facts of this case, including the fact that the area property owners were not in agreement.

Sayers St. is also vital for businesses at 503 and 505 Walsh. These business' operations rely on large delivery vehicles that cannot access the properties from Walsh due to the existing topography. We'd respectfully submit to you that any claims that the street is used only by retail customers are demonstrably false.

1

Finally, the planned "Sixth and Walsh" mixed use development, which includes 25 affordable housing units, depends on continued public access to Sayers St. for utilities, loading, and garage access. Vacating the street would delay the project and increase traffic congestion on Walsh St..

We're seriously concerned that Anchor Equities, which owns adjacent parcels, seeks to privatize Sayers St. for future development. Despite their claims of "no immediate redevelopment plans," such intentions are inconsistent with ongoing development activity in the area. The petition for vacation identifies **only** the portion of Sayers St. 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 who would lose access to the street.

This proposed vacation serves private interests at the cost of public safety, utility, and the broad integrity of the neighborhood. As you know, the City of Austin Transportation Code also requires unanimous consent from adjacent property owners. **To this point, 503 and 505 Walsh were neither consulted nor supportive.** 

Do the right thing. Reject this application in the interest of maintaining vital infrastructure, supporting affordable housing, and preserving a walkable, vibrant West Austin. These are, after all, among the most precious features greater Austin values and wishes to preserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Daniel Armendariz & Megan Alrutz

1608 W. 8th St

Austin, TX 78703

cc:

From: Bueckert, Christopher
To: Powers, Gilda

Cc: TPW Land Management ROW

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

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 4:01:11 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png

Hello, Gilda.

Please add this email/letter to the backup documentation for this Public Hearing. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you kindly.



### Christopher Bueckert (He, Him, His)

Real Estate Services Agent, Land Development Engineering Transportation and Public Works, Permitting and Development Center 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Austin, TX 78752 512-974-1780

christopher.bueckert@austintexas.gov



\*\*Please email <u>LandManagementROW@austintexas.gov</u> on all right-of-way encroachment and vacation questions and concerns\*\*

\*\*Please email LandManagement2@austintexas.gov on all license agreement questions and concerns\*\*

\*\*Please email LandManagement@austintexas.gov on all easement release questions and concerns\*\*

From: Robert McArthur

Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 3:19 PM

To: Bueckert, Christopher < Christopher. Bueckert@austintexas.gov>; Powers, Gilda

<Gilda.Powers@austintexas.gov>

Cc:

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

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April 28, 2026

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

RE: Item <u>50 – 2024-128390</u> LM Right-of-Way Vacation

Dear Mayor Watson and City Council Members,

I strongly oppose the proposed vacation of Sayers Street initiated by Anchor Equities and scheduled for the <u>May 8th</u> hearing. The proposal has already received unanimous opposition from the Urban Transportation Commission and was formally denied by the Transportation and Public Works Department.

The Old West Austin NeighborhoodAssociation (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 forfuture 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. I live on W. 5th and this closure will negatively affect my quality of life.

Sincerely,

Robert McArthur 1502 W. 5th St N-2 Austin, TX 78703 From: Terry S

To: <u>Bueckert, Christopher; Powers, Gilda</u>

Cc: Subject:

Item 50 2024-128390LM -1114 West 5th Street. Keep Sayers St Open

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 4:48:27 PM

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Dear Mr. Bueckert:

Please find attached letter for the attention of Mayor Kirk Watson and City Council Membersregarding Agenda Item 50 on the <u>May 8th</u> Agenda. Kindly confirm receipt upon acceptance.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Best,

Terry Snider

April 28, 2025

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

RE: Item <u>50 – 2024-128390</u> LM Right-of-Way Vacation

Dear Mayor Watson and City Council Members,

I strongly oppose the proposed vacation of Sayers Street initiated by Anchor Equities and scheduled for the <u>May 8th</u> hearing. The proposal has already received unanimous opposition from the Urban Transportation Commission and was formally denied by the Transportation and Public Works Department.

The Old West Austin NeighborhoodAssociation (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 forfuture 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,

Terry Snider 806 Patterson Ave Austin, TX 78703 From: Robert McArthur

To: <u>Bueckert, Christopher; Powers, Gilda</u>

Cc: Subject:

Item 50 - 2024-128390 LM Right-of-Way Vacation

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 3:19:04 PM

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April 28, 2026

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

RE: Item <u>50 – 2024-128390</u> LM Right-of-Way Vacation

Dear Mayor Watson and City Council Members,

I strongly oppose the proposed vacation of Sayers Street initiated by Anchor Equities and scheduled for the <u>May 8th</u> hearing. The proposal has already received unanimous opposition from the Urban Transportation Commission and was formally denied by the Transportation and Public Works Department.

The Old West Austin NeighborhoodAssociation (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.

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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.

I live on W. 5th and this closure will negatively affect my quality of life.

Sincerely,

Robert McArthur 1502 W. 5th St N-2 Austin, TX 78703 512-767-8285

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From: Beverly Dunn
To: Bueckert, Christopher

Cc: Powers, Gilda; zoning@owana.org

**Subject:** Item 50 2024-128390 LM - 1114 West 5th St.

**Date:** Monday, April 28, 2025 6:12:07 PM

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#### Dear Mr Bueckert:

Please convey to Mayor Watson and all council members that I oppose the vacation of Sayers Street. The adjacent neighbor and adjoining neighborhood oppose this and were not adequately consulted. Please give attention to the recommendations of interested parties (including UTC, Transportation and Public Works Depts.) who also oppose this for a multitude of reasons.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint,

Beverly Dunn

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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,

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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 Sayers 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 for future 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,

Margaret Sullivan

M. Slein

1718 Palma Plz

Austin, TX 78703

cc:christopher.bueckert@austintexas.gov

gilda.powers@austintexas.gov

Lynne Marie Rupp 1115 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St. Unit 1 Austin, TX 78703

April 28, 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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We are concerned that Anchor Equities, which owns adjacent parcels, is seeking to privatize Sayers for future 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 witness daily the congestion around 5th, 6th and Walsh. This closure would make this congestion much worse.

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,

Lynne Marie Rupp 1115 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St. Unit 1 Austin, TX 78703

cc:<u>christopher.bueckert@austintexas.gov</u> <u>gilda.powers@austintexas.gov</u> 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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I urge you to reject this application in the interest of maintaining vital infrastructure, supporting affordable housing, and preserving a walkable, vibrant West Austin.

Sinçerely,

Mike Banghart

800 Winflo Drive

Austin, TX 78703

From: Maryandrea

To: <u>Bueckert, Christopher; Powers, Gilda</u>

Cc: Subject: Sayers Street

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 4:03:32 PM

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

RE: Item <u>50 – 2024-128390</u> LM Right-of-Way Vacation

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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,

Kindly, Andrea Kelly Clarksville Resident

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## Raj Patel, PhD 1106 W 10<sup>th</sup> St Austin TX 78703

28 April 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,

I 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.

The Old West Austin NeighborhoodAssociation (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 for future 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,

Raj Patel

From: Alison Ryan

To: <a href="mailto:christopher.bueckert@austintexas.go">christopher.bueckert@austintexas.go</a>; <a href="mailto:Powers, Gilda">Powers, Gilda</a>

Cc: Subject:

Subject: Item 50 2024-128390 LM - 1114 West 5th Street

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 4:13:13 PM

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#### External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mr. Bueckert:

Please find attached letter for the attention of Mayor Kirk Watson and City Council Membersregarding Agenda Item 50 on the May 8th Agenda. Kindly confirm receipt upon acceptance.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this concern Alison Ryan

April 29, 2025

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

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Sincerely,

Alison Ryan 1305 W 9 1/2 St Apt 101 Austin, TX 78703

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

CC:

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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