



## **Resolution of the Zilker Neighborhood Association Executive Committee Regarding the “HOME” Initiative**

**November 6, 2023**

Whereas, Austin residents are experiencing a sustained and deep need for more affordable housing options for a range of incomes; and

Whereas, the Zilker Neighborhood has a long history of supporting affordable housing in our neighborhood and district, including, but not limited to, support for Zilker Studios, Bluebonnet Studios, and Pathways at Goodrich Place; and

Whereas, the City of Austin has proposed the “Home Options for Middle-Income Empowerment” initiative, also referred to as “HOME”; and

Whereas, the Zilker Neighborhood Association’s (ZNA) quarterly membership meeting held on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, featured speakers for and against the “HOME” initiative followed by an active neighborhood discussion; and

Whereas, the members at that meeting overwhelmingly asked ZNA’s Executive Committee to oppose the “HOME” initiative; and

Whereas, the primary objection raised at the meeting was that there is little evidence to suggest that the initiative would create more affordable housing but would hasten the removal of existing affordable housing; and

Whereas, other objections include:

- The likely increase in property taxes

- The likely increase in displacement and gentrification
- The widespread lack of resources for already stressed homeowners for building additional units on their lots
- The negative impact on tree canopy and green spaces needed to combat the heat island effect and other climate related problems including flood resilience and drought protection
- The negative impact on aging infrastructure including electric, water, wastewater, and utilities as well as the potentially dangerous impact on impervious cover and watersheds; and

Whereas, the initiative as written does not require any affordable housing be built and would primarily benefit investor-owned single family lots at the expense of owner-occupied family housing; and

Whereas, instead of city-wide upzoning, ZNA members want a more tailored approach that takes each neighborhood's and district's needs, desires, infrastructure capacity, ecological uniqueness, and culture into account; and

Whereas, ZNA's Executive Committee has consulted with its allied organizations and community leaders from GAVA, PODER, Austin Neighborhood Council, Austin NAACP, and many others who also are opposed to the initiative for many of the same reasons;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that, the ZNA Executive Committee opposes the "HOME" initiative as currently written; and

Be it further resolved that the ZNA Executive Committee rejects the prior administration's policy to force citizens to accept their policies without feedback; and

Be it finally resolved that the ZNA Executive Committee urges Mayor Watson and the City Council to follow Mayor Watson's campaign position: to step back and initiate a collaborative approach with stakeholders in each district appointed to task force and charged with finding consensus on meeting affordable housing goals in each district.

We also support our fellow organizations, GAVA ([here](#)) and ANC ([here](#)) in their resolutions against the HOME initiative.