

February 15, 2016

To: Mayor Kevin Falconer, Councilman Todd Goria, Planner Marlon Pangilinan, Tate Galloway, Jeff Murphy

After six years of hard work by informed community members, multiple meetings and workshops, input from every conceivable stake holder, the draft plan has been revamped at the last minute to satisfy the demands of outsider developers and greedy property owners. Money is the pure objective here, not the betterment of the community.

To claim that this last minute doubling of height limits and densities in Hillcrest is necessary to satisfy the CAP, and that nothing has been built in ten years, is absurd and laughable. Obviously these people have not been living here, and the health of the planet is not their priority. Our streets are gridlocked now and what they are building is far from affordable. I have been commuting by bike for 37 years and it has become more and more difficult, even with improved bike lanes, because of traffic. Thousands of people are not giving up their cars.

Hillcrest is and always has been dense in population. The draft plan before it was hijacked already allowed for considerable increased density and heights in a formula that would allow growth but protect the neighborhood from becoming University City. This is what our hard working planners and community members developed through this lengthy process. Why did we work this hard if it was to be thrown out to profit hugh development companies? And this money does not stay in the community.

No one is trying to protect strip malls, just the sunlight on our streets, the diversity in the character of the neighborhood, the human scale. The pro-super-density people say look at North Park, but North Park has no 100' -200' buildings. They say Hillcrest should be the next Little Italy. I recall that Little Italy rolled back their density/height allowances, as their streets became totally shadowed etc. (And why would we want to be Little Italy? There are many services available in our vibrant Hillcrest beyond eating and drinking.)

Uptown and Hillcrest are deficient in park space and have no recreation center or aquatics facility. Stuffing 20,000 more people in the area is excessive with little hope for much improved infrastructure.

Finally, I am really disturbed by and disappointed in this sneaky last minute revamp by our City Planners. We deserve better than this.

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