



December 18, 2017

Dear Mayor Turner,

The Museum Park Neighborhood Association is seeking your assistance regarding the loss of public right of way (ROW) in Museum Park and the lack of opportunity for public input during renegotiations for repayment to the community as approved in Ordinance 2016-0798 adopted on October 19, 2016. The City of Houston's Complete Communities philosophy emphasizes resident involvement in shaping neighborhoods, but unfortunately Museum Park residents have been excluded from the process despite an active resident association in the community.

Last Tuesday December 12, representatives from MPNA came prepared to speak before City Council, but CM Boykins recommended that we meet with your Chief of Staff Marvalette Hunter instead. We are sending this letter as a follow-up to that meeting.

We, the community of Museum Park, respectfully request that plans to repurpose the 1200 block of Calumet be placed on hold. Additionally we request that a new ordinance, allowing for public input and community participation, be considered. It is important that communities within this great city have an opportunity to speak up. We have attached the MPNA resolution detailing more concerns.

A quick outline of events begins in 2008, when the Holocaust Museum of Houston (HMH) purchased public ROW, the 1300 block of Calumet, between Caroline and Austin, from the City of Houston, which has since become a part of their campus.

- The original agreement, (Ordinance 2008-1224) submitted as a District D item, called for repayment of \$572,000 to be deposited in a special city account for the benefit of the Museum and Management District area sometime in the next five years as federal grant funds became available.
- In 2013, council approved an extension for payment (Ordinance 2013-1227) again submitted under District D.
- In 2016, Council approved a new agreement (Ordinance 2016-0798), which was listed on the October 18 Consent Agenda initiated by the Houston Public Library listed in District C.

The current plan includes repayment of \$272,000 of the original price through creation of a small green space in the 1200 block of Calumet adjacent to the Clayton Library. The remaining \$300,000 will be used to build a garden within the HMH campus.

Not until June of this year did Museum Park first become aware of this agreement when the Holocaust Museum made their public announcement of the expansion plans. We were

disturbed by this turn of events, especially given that during 2016 when this agreement was reached, the Museum Park Livable Centers Study (LCS), was finalized after more than a year of vetting and stakeholder input. During the process Holocaust served as a generous sponsor and active participant in the LCS. Unfortunately the plan for the proposed green space behind Clayton Library was crafted without consulting the LCS.

In the view of our Board, this additional green space is ill suited for the community. It will be located on the backside of Clayton Library for use as a garden reading area. Patrons currently do not take advantage of existing gardens at the Clayton and the need for additional garden space is unclear. Clayton is a research library not offering books for casual reading. Additional public ROW (the north lanes of Calumet) will be abandoned to create the green space. And most importantly this plan does not align with the LCS.

Thank you for considering our request. It is important that communities within this great city be given adequate notice of proposed Council action in order to have the opportunity for public comment.

Sincerely,



Sandy Stevens, President  
***Museum Park Neighborhood Association***

CC: Dwight Boykins  
Marvalette Hunter

Attachments: MPNA Resolution  
Map of Holocaust Expansion/Clayton Library Improvements  
Time-Line of MP Interactions with Holocaust and CoH  
Photos of area sidewalks

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**NEIGHBORHOOD**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
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