

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MUSEUM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PALM STREET BETWEEN MAIN STREET AND FANNIN STREET, HOUSTON, TEXAS, AND REQUESTING THAT A PUBLIC HEARING BE HELD.**

**WHEREAS**, the Museum Park Neighborhood Association (“MPNA”) is one of the oldest neighborhood associations or groups in the City of Houston; and

**WHEREAS**, the Museum Park Neighborhood, bordered by Interstate Highway 59/69, Main Street, State Highway 288, and Hermann Park Drive, is a cluster of cultural institutions and varied residential land uses; and

**WHEREAS**, the street grid in the Museum Park Neighborhood has been riddled with closures, to private property owners or as a result of the METRO Rail Line, which have resulted in a loss of through traffic avenues, creating congestion and making travel difficult and circuitous; and

**WHEREAS**, traffic in the Museum Park Neighborhood is often severely congested because of the area’s draw to tourists and visitors to the Houston Zoo, the area’s eighteen world class museums, Hermann Park, and the Texas Medical Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Houston has received a request to close a portion of Palm Street within the Museum Park Neighborhood boundaries, specifically between Main Street and Fannin Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the MPNA membership voted at its February 3, 2016 meeting to formally oppose this closure;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE MUSEUM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:**

**Section 1.** That the above recitals are hereby found to be true and correct, and are incorporated as if fully set out here.

**Section 2.** That the MPNA finds and objects to the street closure process, if, indeed, the process was followed, and further finds that the street closure process as completed to date did not provide adequate notice for public input and thus violated the procedural and substantive due process rights of the residents of the Museum Park Neighborhood to effectively be involved in the process and even register concerns.

**Section 3.** That the MPNA finds and objects to the city’s violation of the City of Houston 2007 Policy on Street Closures, available on the City’s website, and which provides that street closures will be strictly and tightly reviewed and be an option of last resort.

**Section 4.** That the MPNA finds and objects to the progress of this street closure application where the adjacent property owner has advised, in public meetings, that there are no firm plans for the property.

**Section 5.** That the MPNA finds and objects to the plans to close a public street by a developer whose tentative idea for development will place thousands of additional cars on the streets and in the immediate neighborhood.

**Section 6.** That the MPNA finds and objects to the processing of the street closure application because the application itself is flawed and misrepresents the proposed development and impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

**Section 7.** That the MPNA finds that the Texas Medical Center area is also undergoing a great deal of growth both in institutional measures and residential development which will further impact traffic in the neighborhood, on Main Street and Almeda, Hermann Park, and other area roadways.

**Section 8.** That the MPNA finds and objects to the failure of the City to conduct a traffic study of these tentative plans, area demand, and traffic counts.

**Section 9.** That the MPNA further objects to the proposed closure of this portion of Palm Street because consideration of the request has thus far occurred in a vacuum, with no public hearing or valid opportunity for public input, and fails to take into account the effect on the closure over the greater neighborhood.

**Section 10.** That MPNA requests, through our councilmembers Dwight Boykins (District D) and Amanda Edwards (at Large Position 4) that this closure be formally opposed and stopped.

**Section 11.** That, If the City of Houston chooses to move forward, despite Council and MPNA objections, MPNA insists that public hearings be held on the Palm Street closure request, that the requestor be required to submit final plans for development of the right of way area and bear the burden to prove why such street closure is in the public interest and convenience; to evaluate the effect on emergency vehicle access to locations in and around the neighborhood and adjacent areas; to undertake a traffic study of the Museum Park Neighborhood, and to consider all plans currently underway in the Museum Park Neighborhood vicinity (including Museum of Fine Arts Expansion Plans, Hermann Park Conservancy Plans, the Livable Centers Study and TXDoT IH-45 Plans) prior to any street closures being approved.

BE IT SO RESOLVED THIS 3rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016.

MUSEUM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



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Greg Quintero, President, Museum Park Neighborhood Association  
Board of Directors, Museum Park Neighborhood Association

ATTEST:

Janet Fayle, Secretary, Museum Park Neighborhood Association

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