

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE MUSEUM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the Museum Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) was formed to serve the interests of its residents and its Board of Directors (MPNA Board) often works as a liaison between residents and governmental officials and entities; and

WHEREAS, the MPNA Board has actively and consistently worked on understanding and coordinating planning efforts in the neighborhood, including the Museum Park Livable Centers Study, the City of Houston General Plan, the Hermann Park Conservancy Master Plan, the Bicycle Master Plan, the Houston Zoo Expansion Plan, and individual plans for the museums: Museum of Fine Arts expansion, Children's Museum, and the Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH); and

WHEREAS, the MPNA Board has also been actively engaged in other development issues such as construction projects and proposed street closures; and

WHEREAS, MPNA residents, the museums and other entities in the Museum Park Neighborhood, Houston Southeast Management District (HouSE), and the City of Houston (City) were actively involved in the planning for and preparation and adoption of the Museum Park Livable Centers Study (LCS), which provides detailed goals and objectives for improvements to the neighborhood for the benefit of residents, employees tourists, and visitors to the area's employment centers, health, educational facilities, and cultural institutions; and

WHEREAS, recent updates on the HMH expansion plans were made known to the membership of MPNA, and HMH requested support for development variances from MPNA in support of the plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the City of Houston adopted Ordinance 2008-1224 which abandoned 1 block of Calumet Drive from Caroline Street to Austin Street, valued at \$572,115.00, to HMH; "providing, however, in lieu of immediate payment, owner will commit to seeking federal funding and such funds will be deposited within 5 years, into a special City account for the benefit of the Museum and Management District area" – DISTRICT D- ADAMS; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the City of Houston amended Ordinance 2008-1224 and adopted Ordinance 2013-1127, and agreed to extend the time to perform the original agreement - DISTRICT D - ADAMS; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2016, City Council approved Consent Agenda Item #16, Ordinance 2016-0798, submitted by the Houston Public Library and titled "HPL – Holocaust Museum Houston Improvements – Clayton Library" and described in the agenda as "ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Development and Construction Agreement between the City of Houston, Texas and HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON for improvements around the Clayton Library located at Caroline Street – DISTRICT C – COHEN; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance 2016-0798 forgave the payment of \$572,115.00 due from the HMH to the City for the 2008 closure of Calumet Boulevard, in exchange for HMH making improvements valued at \$300,000.00—accessible only by payment of an entrance fee—on its private property and crediting the remainder by closing the north half of the adjacent stretch of Calumet Boulevard, next to the Clayton Library, providing plantings as a small green space, and providing other minor improvements around the Clayton; and

WHEREAS, MPNA objects to the approval process and notice process, wherein no department or entity of the City notified MPNA, residents, or the public, and which the MPNA Board asserts did not follow the required process, adequate posting requirements, and thus the residents of Museum Park Neighborhood were denied their due process notice rights; was listed under District C instead of District D; and

WHEREAS, the MPNA Board became aware of this modification in June 2017, as HMH announced expansion plans. The MPNA Board met with HMH and City of Houston Departments to request reconsideration of the October 2016 plans to allow for public input, and accomplish the goals set forth in the approved Museum Park Livable Centers Study, which both the City of Houston and HMH supported and was robustly vetted by the public; and

WHEREAS, from June, 2017, MPNA sought to understand the process by which this ordinance was submitted to City Council and was approved; the City of Houston has so far failed to provide documents requested under the Public Information Act to support proper notice and public opportunity for comment;

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

Section 1. That the recitals above are found to be true and accurate and are incorporated herein as if fully set out.

Section 2. That the MPNA Board objects to the renegotiation of the terms of the sale of Calumet Boulevard, when the \$572,115.00 value of the street asset should have been paid to the City of Houston, for improvements within Museum District as originally agreed to in 2008.

Section 3. That the MPNA Board finds that the terms of this abandonment of a city property asset, and especially its renegotiation, are not in the best interest of the public for the following reasons:

- That the public was not provided with adequate and correct notice with which to appear before City Council to make public statements;
- More public ROW (Calumet between Caroline and San Jacinto) is now being abandoned without the value of that public property being paid to the City, as trustee of that public property;
- The original payment due of \$572,115.00 has now been renegotiated, by the City of Houston, to allow the HMH to invest \$300,000 into its expansion plans to improve the interior landscape, which is open to HMH members/ticket holders only during the Museum's hours of operation; and
- The remaining \$272,115 balance due will be, allegedly, equaled "in-kind" by HMH improvements to an additional block of Calumet, adjacent to the Clayton Library, that will be abandoned as a street and repurposed, again without public input. Further, the City of Houston Public Library Department will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of these improvements, at further expense to the public. Houston Southeast Management District has offered to redesign the area in alignment with the Museum Park Livable Center Study and to provide ongoing maintenance for such efforts.

Section 4. That the MPNA Board further finds it in the public's best interest that this agreement seek to implement the Livable Centers Study (LCS) goals and objectives as follows:

- The Livable Centers Study (LCS) directs improvements in the public right of way, including improvements to the esplanades, and development of the Cultural Trail;
- Houston Southeast Management District (HouSE) has offered \$10K for design fees to propose an alternative design for HMH to secure the credit for improvements that provide a greater benefit in the public realm; and
- HouSE has advised the Museum Park Super Neighborhood that it will also assume maintenance for any projects that are completed according to the Livable Centers Study(LCS); however, under the renegotiated agreement, the HMH project does not meet this standard and the City will take on additional costs of maintenance.

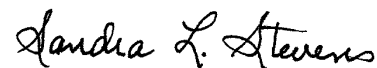
Section 5. That the MPNA Board further finds it in the public's best interest to renegotiate this agreement to implement the Livable Centers Study (LCS) goals and objectives through funding as anticipated by the original ordinance.

Section 6. That the MPNA Board respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council place an immediate hold on HMH plans for the improvements on the additional block of Calumet Boulevard, while the approval process is reviewed to determine whether City procedures, as well as state and municipal laws, were followed

Section 7. That the MPNA Board respectfully requests that Council direct a new Ordinance be prepared for funding and development in the public realm of the Museum Park neighborhood, in consultation with the Museum Park SN, MPNA board, and Museum Park residents.

RESOLVED AND APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2017.

Museum Park Neighborhood Ass'n



Sandra Stevens, President

ATTEST:



Sara Gladden, Secretary