



November 12, 2018

Re: Closing of Wheeler Encampment

Dear Mayor Turner:

Museum Park residents breathed a sigh of relief earlier this month, when the Wheeler encampment was closed and fenced. We extend our thanks to you and your staff, as you worked tirelessly to achieve a solution for everyone, the residents as well as the individuals camping beneath US 59.

We are particularly pleased that through the coordinated efforts of your office, HPD, the Health Department, the Coalition for the Homeless, and other departments and agencies, all individuals living in the encampment were offered immediate shelter. It was truly the compassionate solution that you promised.

We are grateful to our Council Member Dwight Boykins, who listened to our fears and consistently supported our demands for solution. We extend thanks to Marc Eichenbaum who spoke at our evening meetings helping us to understand the complexities of finding resolution and returned to work the next day focused on achieving permanent solutions; to HPD's South Central Station, where both Sergeants Shannon Farquhar and later Eric Flores led the DRT's efforts in the encampment; and to Marilyn Brown, President of the Coalition for the Homeless. Through her leadership Navigators were in the encampment daily interacting directly with the homeless to find permanent housing. And we recognize there are others we have not singled out to whom we owe thanks.

Our neighborhood has been through a lot during the past two plus years as the negative effects of the camp spilled into the surrounding area impacting residents and businesses. Health risks, theft, aggressive panhandling, drug deals gone bad, even stray bullets have meant that residents remained anxious and fearful throughout this ordeal. I'm sure the residents of the encampment shared many of our same fears. We all sleep more peacefully now.

Thanks, Mayor Turner, for staying the course throughout the difficult process of finding a compassionate solution to an extremely complex problem. We know homelessness continues in Houston, and we will maintain our support of the efforts of your Office on Homeless Initiatives and the Coalition for the Homeless as they work to find housing for all.

We hope that you will share this letter with the several individuals and departments who contributed to the effort.

Yours truly,



Sandra Stevens, President

Museum Park Neighborhood Association

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