ccppi
center for civic & public policy improvement

June 23, 2020

Ms Margaret Wallace
Director
Planning Department
City of Houston
Houston, TX 77002

Re: Walkable Places/TOD Ordinance

Dear Ms. Wallace:

On behalf of the Center for Civic and Public Policy Improvement (CCPPI) I am writing to share our support for the Walkable Places and Transit-Oriented Development ordinance. We are well aware of the critical importance of this ordinance and urge committee approval. As a grass-roots oriented partner we work side-by-side with the Complete Communities Greater Third Ward Super Neighborhood 67, the Greater Southeast Management District, the Old Spanish Trail/Almeda Corridors Redevelopment Authority TIRZ No. 7, and the Midtown Redevelopment Authority/TIRZ No. 2 to improve the quality of living across the Greater Third Ward and OST/South Union areas.

Currently we are engaged in supporting the implementation of the MRA Southeast Affordable Housing Plan, which includes multiple major development projects situated on/near the Emancipation Avenue. In addition to involvement in revitalization efforts in this historic corridor, we are supporting development of a significant amount of single- and multi-family affordable housing in immediate proximity to the area. With an understanding that the lived environment is crucial to the full health of any community area, we are also working with the Greater Southeast Management District to study ways to improve environmental quality and increase pedestrian-friendly, walkable linkages via a comprehensive design for linking communities throughout the area, including considering ways to create multi-modal travel choices. All things considered, the proposed Walkable Places/TOD is undoubtedly crucial to the healthy development in the Emancipation Corridor area.

This ordinance is important for creation of more robust and sustainable living for current and future residents, as well as visitors to the area, and we urge approval.

Sincerely,

Sean A. Haley, Ph.D.
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