

SAMPLE LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

Dear Elected Official,

Because I believe that Houston must do all it can to respect the integrity of its neighborhoods, I am opposed to the 23-story high-rise project being planned for 1717 Bissonnet (Ashby and Bissonnet). It is completely out of character with the quiet, gracious, single family residential neighborhoods of Southampton and Boulevard Oaks and will create numerous safety, traffic, visual and quality of life problems in this area.

The developers from West University Place and Southside Place appear to have given no consideration to the profound impact of their proposed high-rise on our neighborhood. Building a 23 story tower in an established single-family residential neighborhood will irrevocably alter and degrade the neighborhood and wipe out millions of dollars of residential property values. This project belongs on a major thoroughfare, not on residential streets where it will loom over homes one tenth its height. It also does not belong on an already burdened narrow collector and a residential two-lane street. According to the developers' own traffic impact study, the traffic will worsen to unacceptable levels when the building is fully occupied in 2010. There is no doubt that the residents of the new project will elect to avoid the delays on Bissonnet and access the building by cutting through our residential streets. **If we can restrict hotels to major thoroughfares, why should we allow high-rise apartment buildings to be built on two-lane streets?**

As you probably know, Boulevard Oaks and Southampton have long been recognized as one of Houston's most beautiful and treasured residential area, and the first street north of this project (South Boulevard) is historically designated. This project insults that heritage. The City must find a way to prevent inappropriate projects from destroying neighborhood character and reducing the value of the largest and most important investment most Houston citizens will ever make—*their homes*.

Please join me in opposing this undesirable and unwanted project and convince the developers to relocate it to a more appropriate site. And please begin work on an ordinance to protect Houston's lovely residential neighborhoods from these looming high-rises before all the neighborhoods in this city have been damaged beyond repair.