

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2019

1. Houston Housing Authority (“HHA”) meeting scheduled 3:00 pm for Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 2640 Fountain View, Houston ,Texas 77057 will face protests and petitions from East End Residents and business owners. See www.saveeastend.com
2. The HAA plans to purchase/administer more than 38 acres of land along Buffalo Bayou and convert such property to property tax exempt status. TIRZ 23 was created to build desperately needed East End infrastructure and will lose millions of dollars or tax increment from all 38 acres of land.
3. The property tax exempt status will specifically cover 284 “market rate” apartments constructed by developer Ojala Holdings, generating a profits windfall to Ojala and unfairly competing with new apartments planned by Midway (East River) on the opposite side of Jensen Drive.
4. The HAA plans will add 1104 low income units into a neighborhood overly saturated with 447 low income apartments, expressly violating HUD policy and the 2015 United States Supreme Court decision against similar housing practices in Dallas.
5. The HAA plans will dump children (from 1104 new low income units) into a failed HISD school district served by Bruce Elementary (failing grade 2018) and Wheatley (failing grade past seven years).
6. For the “EADO 800” plan creating 800 low income apartments, HAA will spend over \$52,000,000 to purchase land sandwiched between Texas Superfund Site Lead Products Inc and the heavily polluted City of Houston Velasco incinerator property (and adjacent landfills with incinerator ash up to 22 feet thick).
7. The EADO 800 plan will pack 800 low income apartments into a property five blocks away from any bus lines, on Middle Street, which dead ends at both ends into Buffalo Bayou and the rear of Fire Station 17, through neighborhood streets which cannot be enlarged to handle the planned traffic density.
8. Instead of sourcing cost effective land within a required two mile radius over a five year term, the HAA will spend over \$82,000,000 of tax payer dollars to purchase the 38 acres (all of it owned by landowner Pinto Realty, land division for the billionaire Cockrell Family) - more than double the market value of other properties better suited for replacement of Clayton Homes housing.

9. The HAA plans are REGRESSIVE and not progressive. The Clayton Home (established 1952) housing model has failed and HUD now knows that packing large numbers of low income units into the same neighborhood is counterproductive to the purpose of the Fair Housing Act. TXDOT's tax dollars comprise an extraordinary windfall to HAA (112 of the 296 units flooded during Harvey and are uninhabitable), and this windfall should be wisely spent and not transferred to the pockets of one wealthy landowner, private developers and their consultants and agents.

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