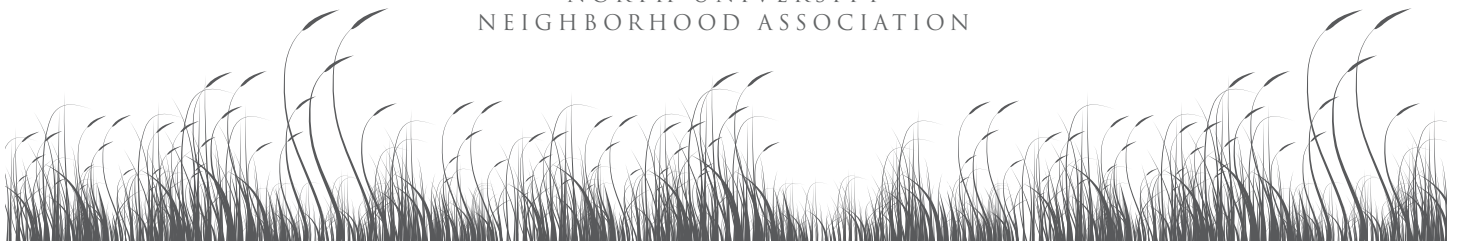




NORTH UNIVERSITY  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



## NUNA PRESIDENT’S REPORT

*By Laurence Miller*

As I write this note on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, I find myself grateful for those who toil to protect our neighborhood. In particular, I am grateful to the NUNA Development Review Committee, ably chaired by Steven Tomlinson ([steven@abporter.org](mailto:steven@abporter.org)) and its members Kimberly Renner, Mary Ingle, Rick Iverson and Bill Bednar. Formerly known as the NUNA NPT, there is a distinguished and long list of other neighbors who preceded the current members and set a very high bar for their work. Our neighborhood is under immense threats (See Bill Bednar’s article on page 1) from developers seeking to profit from the need for student housing. Think West Campus!!! The economic incentives for the developers are substantial. The Development Review Committee is our first line of defense. They meet monthly (and often in between) on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the First English Lutheran Church (FELC). If you want to help or just learn more about our neighborhood and its challenges, please join them on December 1st.

Please join us on December 7th at 5:30 pm at FELC for the December General Membership Meeting. For the first time in memory, your Quadrant Leaders have promised to have tantalizing reports from their quadrants. It will be the highlight of the evening! Surely Kimberly Renner will outshine the three boys! Be there; not to be missed.

This is the last newsletter of 2010 and I would be remiss if I did not thank Kathryn Kotrla and Judy Willcott for their hard work and dedication. Thank you both very much.

Happy Holidays, neighbors! Here is to a prosperous 2011. May your gods bless you...

## LETTER FROM PAST PRESIDENT

*By Bill Bednar*

In June 2009, in a note on the list-serve I asked, rhetorically, if there were any point to preserving a neighborhood if we weren’t going to act like neighbors. Events since then suggest that we still need to ask ourselves that question. At the request of our President Laurence Miller and our newsletter editor Judy Willcott, I am happy to review and update some of the ideas I shared back then.

We are the third densest planning area in the city. NUNA has about 54 city blocks. It contains about 4,500 people in over 2,500 dwelling units. 83% are rented and 13% are owner-occupied. By contrast, the current NUNA paid-up membership consists of only 87 households.

If you own or rent a residence in NUNA, no matter where, and you want to live in a peaceful, quiet, green, and roomy place, you are an endangered species. Look at what happened a year ago in Judges’ Hill downtown. In May 2009, the ROMA Design Group (a consultant hired by the City) released a density bonus report that would have allowed 120-foot tall buildings right across the street from single family dwellings. All of a sudden, the Judges’ Hill folks were fighting for their lives, and they still are. Think it won’t happen here? Density mania reigns downtown. The city comprehensive plan, which includes NUNA, is being reviewed and “updated.” Do you think those “chip exercises” and “scenarios” are being driven by neighborhood concerns? Do you really think developers are going to pass up this chance to revisit the tight zoning in our NCCD? Think again. Density bonuses, planned unit developments, affordable housing, and more vertical mixed use are right around the corner. Were we ready back in 2009? No. Are we ready now? I fear the answer is still no.

In light of these concerns our NUNA membership is still woefully small. Less than 4 percent of our living units and less than 26 percent of our owner-occupied homes are represented. Why? Several reasons. Most NUNA residents don’t know or care what’s at stake in the coming months and years. Many do care, but don’t think they have the time or the need to get involved. We’ve lost some old-timers. But the worst of it is that NUNA is still beset with

### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010**  
**5:30 - 7:00 PM**

*First English Lutheran Church*

ongoing internecine quarrels that never seem to end. Lofty principles still get invoked. Vigorous arguments still get advanced. Betrayals are still perceived, and accusations still get made. Egos continue to be plumped or bruised. But at what cost? The cost is a serious weakening of the organization. Some people have quit participating. Some of us are tired, and are scaling back. Far more just stay away, sensibly thinking they have better things to do with their lives than suffer through silly quarrels. Right now there are just a handful of officers and dedicated members, who are doing most of the work and trying to hold things together.

Meanwhile the tide of illegal permits laps away at the NCCD, and in the near distance, density increases are looming. It is time right now for NUNA residents to get unified, grow the membership, get organized, and gird for battle. But what are we doing? Relatively few of us are actually doing anything. Some of us insist on squabbling. Many are simply staying home. We can and must do better. Start by getting your dues in and becoming a member. Ten bucks to Jan Moyle, NUNA Treasurer, 200 W 32nd St, Austin, Texas 78705. Then contact our extraordinarily able president, Laurence Miller (nunaustin@gmail.com). Spare him who you're mad at. Tell him what you're willing to work on. And, in spite of everything,

Peace, Bill Bednar

## NEXT NUNA MEETING

Dec. 7, 2010

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of October 2010 General Membership Meeting Minutes
3. Guests:
4. Reports
  - ANC - Bill Bednar
  - CANPAC - Robert Morris
  - Historic District- Grooms, Alridge Place
  - Development Review- Steven Tomilson
  - Membership - Kimberly Renner
  - Newsletter- Judy Willcott
  - Parks - Mark Feist & Doug Plummer
  - Parking - Chris Dial & Doug Plummer
  - Treasurer - Jan Moyle
  - Quadrant Leader's Reports- Dick Holland, Mike Riley, Kimberly Renner, and Rick Iverson
4. Items Recommended for Action
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Adjourn

## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### 2011 RESIDENTIAL PARKING & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

New Procedure for the 15th Year of RPP!

On December 10th, Chris Dial will send out, via e-mail, the 2011 Residential Parking & Membership renewal form. Please follow the directions on this form for renewal.

If you do not receive an e-mail from Chris, check the NUNA web site to download renewal information or e-mail Chris (chrisdial202@gmail.com).

*from Chris Dial*

### ABOUT OUR PARKS

Mark Feist, Chair of Hemphill/Adams Park Committee, reports that he is still seeking a landscape architect to help us write a master plan for Hemphill and Adams Parks. Please call Mark if you know anyone to recommend. Also Mark

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has attended a grant application class required by the City and he is continuing to research grant possibilities.

### ABOUT OUR WEBSITE

The new NUNA website designed by Rob Moshein and Bob Atchinson of Pallasart Web Design is complete except for the discussion board which will be finished by the end of the year. We are now in the process of downloading information from the old website and entering in new information about our neighborhood. This is a time consuming process and we could use help from anyone who can volunteer. Call Judy Willcott, 563-9046.

### MUSIC NOISE in the Neighborhood

If anyone has been bothered by loud music recently, please contact Mary Gay Maxwell at 472-5958. She is collecting signatures for a petition to submit to the City.

### GROOMS ADDITION HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Grooms Addition Historic District Committee has a knack for taking mini vacations from its historic district work, particularly since the City's Preservation Officer, Steve Sadowsky, suggested that public meetings could be scheduled early next year (2011) to review the design guidelines for the Grooms Addition Historic District. Cheers- here's to the New Year and to the viewing of the design guidelines for our local Historic District. Stay tuned.

*from Mary Ingle*

## 2010-2011 NUNA OFFICERS

**President** Laurence Miller- [nunaaustin@gmail.com](mailto:nunaaustin@gmail.com)

**Vice President** Steve Tomlinson- [steven@abporter.org](mailto:steven@abporter.org)

**Secretary** Cindy Keever- [cpkeever@aol.com](mailto:cpkeever@aol.com)

**Treasurer** Jan Moyle- [jmoyle@austin.rr.com](mailto:jmoyle@austin.rr.com)

### NW Quadrant Representative

Rick Iverson- [Iver506@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Iver506@sbcglobal.net)

### SW Quadrant Representative

Kimberly and Dan Renner- [krenner@austin.rr.com](mailto:krenner@austin.rr.com)

### NE Quadrant Representative

Mike Riley- [micriley@michrosoft.com](mailto:micriley@michrosoft.com)

### SE Quadrant Representative

Dick Holland/Cynthia Bryant

[rh02@txstate.edu](mailto:rh02@txstate.edu)

### Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative

Bill Bednar- [wbednar@bednarlaw.com](mailto:wbednar@bednarlaw.com)

### Development Review Committee (DRC)

Steve Tomlinson- [steve@abporter.org](mailto:steve@abporter.org)

### Internet Server Host

Pallasart Web Design

### Parking Permits

Chris Dial- [chrisdial202@gmail.com](mailto:chrisdial202@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Design:** The MOD Studio- [www.themodstudio.com](http://www.themodstudio.com)

### Newsletter Distribution:

Daphny Ainsley, Bill Bednar, Jack Brannon, Joan Burnham, Pat Campbell and Don Carnes, Jim Creswell, Vicki Ford, Maryrose Galluzo, Alegria Hibbits, Rick Iverson and Joe Sosa, Carole LeClair, Susan Morgan, Jan Moyle, Homer Parsegian, Michael Riley, Naomi Trejo

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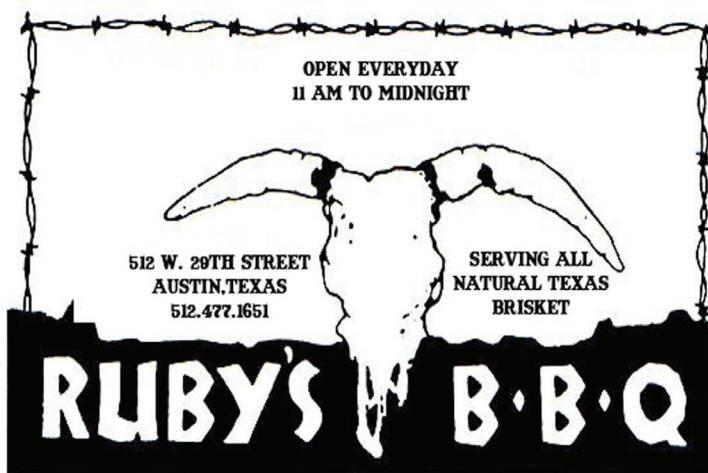
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## HELPING HAND HOME FOR CHILDREN RIGHT IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Kathryn Kotrla

“A little Consideration, a little Thought for Others, makes all the difference” ---Winnie the Pooh

Child abuse facts are staggering: every 11 seconds a U.S. child is reported abused or neglected. Child abuse statistics are devastating: 65% of prison inmates, up to 80% of drug and alcohol abusers, 90% of convicted murderers were child abuse victims. Child abuse wounds include chronic health problems, cognitive and language disorders, and relationship dysfunction including intergenerational violence.

Sitting quietly at 3804 Avenue B, on the Hyde Park/NUNA boundary, is the Helping Hand Home for Children (HHH). Founded in 1893, HHH is the oldest residential childcare agency in Travis County. Up to 41 children ages 4-13 live, play, and attend school at HHH while the staff works tirelessly to help the children heal so that they can move on to a foster family and maybe a forever family through the on-site HHH Child Placement Agency.

HHH children are in Child Protective Services custody. The children are rated as requiring “intense” or “specialized” care, roughly the same level of behavioral disturbance and acuity as a children’s psychiatric unit. Unlike a hospital, though, or a residential treatment center that warehouses kids, HHH offers individual and group therapy, working through sexual abuse issues, and providing the structure, predictability, and normalizing experiences that are novel for the children.

To achieve this, HHH employs a staff:resident ratio of 3:1, when only 5:1 is legally required. Staff members are mostly college graduates with a 2 week intensive submersion in clinical topics, the rationale of every HHH activity, every child’s medication, and basics of how to structure communication to foster a child’s self-control instead of precipitating a meltdown. The Director of Residential Services, Chris Janawicz, who started at HHH in 1991, says it takes around a year for the staff to develop the skills to consistently manage the kids’ needs. 50 hours of additional training are offered every year, and staff-self care programs are in place to foster the high staff morale and maintain low staff turn-over rate.

For such quality treatment, the Texas Department of Family Services provides only \$0.60 for every dollar spent on a child at HHH. The other funds and services come from grants, events, donations, and volunteers. Community volunteers provide a critical component of HHH’s normalizing milieu.

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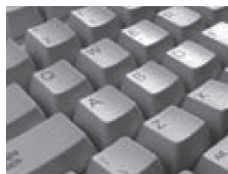
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Fill in your information below and mail it to Jan Moyle, 200 W 32nd St, Austin Texas, 78705. Dues are a bargain at \$10.00 per person. Make your check payable to NUNA.

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Volunteers run a variety of activities---yoga, cooking, dance, art, music. HHH attempts to reach each child through his or her own special talent, and these community volunteers make enrichment activities possible. There are volunteers to simply read a book at bedtime to a 9 year old child who has never been read to before. Since the UT Charter School started at HHH, resulting in academic success stories for kids unable to function in a normal school setting, there's the need for tutors to help remediate the academic delays associated with child abuse. The goal of HHH is to transition each child from residential treatment to foster care and into a forever home, and caring foster and adopting parents are the greatest need of all.

When Chris and HHH Director of Development Julie Freeman were asked what NUNA might do for them, their answer was surprising. Of course there's a need for volunteers to read to kids, tutor kids, enrich the kids with normal activities, become foster and forever parents, and certainly donations are welcome. But, interestingly, they said it would mean a lot to the staff if we just knew that they were there, and that we appreciated their work. A simple "Thanks for doing what you do" in a note, card, or e-mail ([www.helpinghandhome.com](http://www.helpinghandhome.com)) would make a difference.

As we move into the holiday season, Helping Hand Home for Children, THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DO!!!!

Note: With the holidays coming no one wants to think of a child without presents. NUNA News readers can be Santa to one of HHH's foster kids, and brighten their Christmas. If interested, contact me at [kjkotrla@gmail.com](mailto:kjkotrla@gmail.com). Kristi Duck, the Director of Child Placement Services shared their (heart-breaking) "Wish Lists" with me. We can tell you about the characteristics, wants and needs of "your" child to make his

or her holidays sparkle. HHH asks that presents be delivered to their office no later than December 13th, so if NUNA neighbors could get them to me by December 12th, we'll take care of everything.

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## EXCITING NEWS FOR THE AUSTIN HISTORICAL SURVEY PROJECT AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

By Jenni Minner

The U.S. Department of the Interior awarded an \$87,278 Preserve America grant to the City of Austin to support the development of the Austin Historical Survey Web Tool. A team at the University of Texas at Austin is developing the interactive, open source website as a community-based tool for surveying historic resources in Austin. After the web tool is tested in the North University Neighborhood, funding from the Preserve America grant will support additional refinement of the site for launch city wide. The federal Preserve America program supports community-based efforts to preserve cultural and natural heritage nationwide. The Preserve America grant will supplement funding for the project from the Texas Historical Commission and the City of Austin.

A big thank you to Robert and Jeffrey Kaler, who generously scanned historic survey forms for Grooms Addition. The surveys were completed prior to NUNA's participation in the Austin Historical Survey project. The next step for our project is to move information from scanned surveys into a format that will make the survey information searchable and editable on the web tool. Once the web tool goes live, corrections and additions to surveys will be easier to make. Information will become available to everyone through the web tool – from people interested in local historic district organizing efforts to students of all ages who are learning about neighborhood history.

The Austin Historical Survey team could use your help! Are you curious about the Austin Historical Survey project? Excited to help? We have volunteer opportunities. Tasks can be completed at the UT campus or on your own computer. All levels of experience with computers are welcome. Contact me, Jenni Minner, to volunteer. E-mail [minnerj@gmail.com](mailto:minnerj@gmail.com) or call 512-906-5752.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME REPORT

For October 17, 2010 to November 16, 2010

The Austin Police Department lists crimes by neighborhood on their Crime Search Website ([www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/crimeinformation](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/crimeinformation)).

Abandoned Vehicle	1
Accidental Drug Overdose	1
Aggravated Assault	1

Assault with injury-Fam/Date Viol	1
Assault with an Injury	4
Auto Theft	2
Burglary of a Residence	9
Burglary of a Vehicle	18
Credit Card Abuse by Forgery	1
Criminal Mischief	4
Criminal Trespass	1
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Disturbance Other	0
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## Good News for an Old House!



4308 Avenue F has new owners! This house, which has stood vacant for some years, causing worry that it might become another tear-down, has been bought by an intrepid couple who plan to restore and enlarge the house and make it their home. Karen Saadeh and David Matthis had been searching for some time for an old house to rescue and when I emailed them about it they called immediately and ran over to see it. They decided that it had such “good bones” that it would work well for them and they made an offer the next day.

Karen and David said this project will “fulfill a life-long dream of living in Hyde Park... We are looking forward to living in this wonderful neighborhood, which is an important part of Austin’s history, and meeting our new neighbors. In the meantime, please excuse the dust.”

The new owners have visited with Seller Fae Conner about the history of the house and want to learn as much about it as possible. So if you have lived here a long time and can add memories, they welcome them.

I love this story, as it illustrates the interest people have in old houses, even when they are in serious disrepair. Hyde Park is full of houses that were once thought beyond saving but are now lovely homes.

We will all enjoy watching this one come to life again and welcoming Karen and David to the neighborhood. I am pleased to have a hand in this happy transition.

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Theft of Metal	2

## OCTOBER MINUTES OF THE NUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*First English Lutheran Church*

*October 12, 2010*

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Laurence Miller who announced our two guests. Joyce Lauch of AGE briefly discussed the new medical equipment lending closet sponsored by that group. Tonya Mills, Senior Planning Analyst for the Travis County Criminal Justice Department, reported on their study of the interrelatedness of homelessness, alcohol, and crime. She passed around a map which identified Hemphill Park as one of the hot spots for the convergence of these three factors and noted that an active neighborhood crime watch will push transients to leave the area and reduce crime.

Laurence Miller reported for Bill Bednar on the Austin Neighborhood Council plan for our area which is apparently moving forward with little attention being paid to the work already done by NUNA and other neighborhood groups. Increased participation in the process by neighborhood representatives was urged.

Mary Ingle reported from CANPAC about the possibility of establishing a parking benefit district in West Campus which would eliminate free parking. Although University Area Partners would participate in generated revenues, it is not at an acceptable level and there is strong student opposition to the parking benefit district concept.

Steven Tomlinson from the Development Review Committee reported that the redesign of Trudy’s parking lot is proceeding and will probably be resolved favorably. There are still issues with the lot across the street. Trudy’s has also adopted the parkland across the street and will provide maintenance there.



Three houses in our area have potential issues. Owners at 34th and Duval want to add on to the back of the house. This was referred to the City. Owners of the duplex property at 209 E. 38th Street want to expand to a triplex and have sought out NUNA to discuss the situation. Apparently, however, they have little chance of getting City approval. The issue of the illegal triplex at 300 East 32nd Street is still pending before the City but will probably not be approved.

Douglas Plummer from the Parks Committee said that the lease for the cell tower at Sparky Park is being renegotiated to help fund the retrofitting of the building at that location. Mark Feist reported that the willows in the creek are to be removed by the City and that work continues on the Master Plan for Hemphill and Adams Parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.  
*Respectfully submitted, Cindy Keever*

## NOVEMBER MINUTES OF THE NUNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*November 9, 2010*

The Executive Committee was attended by Laurence Miller, Doug Plummer, Kimberly Renner, Steven Tomlinson, Regan Gammon, Dick Holland, Judy Willcott, Chris Dial, Jan Moyle, and Mary Ingle.

Doug Plummer asked for neighborhood support for a variance required in order to move a structure from 408 East 33rd Street onto his property at 301 East 35th for a garage. After some discussion Kimberly made a motion that the Executive Committee support Douglas's application for a variance as a resolution to the case at 408 E. 33rd Street in which the neighborhood has been involved for several months. Chris seconded the motion. The motion passed. Steven will draft a letter for the President to send to the City Board of Adjustments.

Dick Holland and Mary Ingle agreed to write a letter to the developer who purchased 3109 Walling about the dying trees on the property.

Chris Dial said that she received a notice of a meeting about changes in the Residential Parking Permit program. She will report when she knows more.

Steven Tomlinson reported on the cases heard at the Development Review Committee including 209 E. 38th and 400 E. 33rd. Steven said that the issues with Trudy's parking lot across 30th Street are still unresolved due to the City's tough code requirements.

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## VAGRANTS IN THE PARK

The following letter about our problems with the homeless in Hemphill Park was written by Kimberly Renner and sent to the Austin Police Department with signatures from 29 Aldridge Place Families.

*November 19, 2010*

City of Austin Police Department  
Officer Richard Castillo  
Officer William Harvey  
Officer Troy Schouest

RE: Crime Increase with Vagrants in Adams/Hemphill Park

Dear Officers,

We are a group of citizens and families from Aldridge Place, the neighborhood that surrounds Adams/Hemphill Park. We are writing to seek your assistance regarding the recent increase in vagrant occupation of the park.

This neighborhood is near the urban core, so we have historically expected to have a few homeless neighbors nearby. But this park is not like those downtown, it is surrounded by primarily owner-occupied, single-family homes. It is not an appropriate place for the current degree of vagrant activity. There has been a recent increase in this population and it is well past our comfort level.

In addition, the marked increase in crime, which now has us designated as a "hot spot", seems correlated with the increase in vagrant activity. Home invasions, car break-ins, theft, vandalism, and public intoxication are all on the rise in Aldridge Place.

Many of us have children. We moved here because this compact little enclave is a safe place for us to know our neighbors and for our kids to play in the park. That has changed. Our children feel frightened by the large group of homeless people camped out and we are not comfortable using the park that our tax dollars support.

In the last six months the number of homeless people who "reside" in this park has quadrupled. There are eight or ten "regulars" who are here all day and evening, seven days a week, along with many more who come and go. They congregate in a large and intimidating group on the south end of the park every day. They are almost always intoxicated, drinking from open containers, belligerent to passers-by, and they create a constant flow of litter in the park. We regularly witness them urinating in the creek (which runs down the middle of the

park) or even bathing in it. Their grocery carts are lined up and they are sprawled out on the ground or on sleeping bags. They are often here over night, sleeping in the sheltered parts of the park. When we do our park clean-ups twice a year, we find needles and drug paraphernalia around the edges of the creek and bridges. We periodically call 911 to report obvious infractions of the law, but it has made no difference in this growing problem.

About a year ago the APD made a concerted effort to address the homeless population in our area. It worked. We were so grateful. But it did not work for long and the problem is now worse than before. We are asking for your assistance again. We want to be respectful of all people's rights, but it is clear that this park is no longer safe. We trust that you can help us strike the right balance and so we are asking for your help.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate the good work of the Austin Police Department.

Sincerely,  
Signatures from 29 Aldridge Place Families

*Below are quotes from the co-signing residents of Aldridge Place:*

"This is a neighborhood park, not a downtown park. It is not appropriate for the vagrants to have such a strong presence here."

"I had to call the police because one of them was passed out, with his head in the street."

"Someone came in our home several weeks ago around 1:30 am. I was home alone. I've come to believe it was probably a vagrant looking for food and temporary shelter."

"I went to my car one morning and a guy was sleeping in it!"

"It will be interesting to see if APD proves more responsive."

"The number of vagrants has significantly increased in recent months."

"I have always tried to keep an open mind about the situation, but now the situation is getting much worse."

"I've been avoiding the streets by the park, especially when we are walking with the kids."

"These people have appropriated the park to use as their own....drinking, sleeping, urinating, throwing trash around..."