

## Special Committee Formed for Student Housing Issues

By Tonianne Soster

During the 8/22 HPWBANA meeting a special committee was formed in an effort to address the detrimental impact that student housing facilities have on the character of our community and the current issues involving them. This committee will address a growing number of complaints regarding noise disturbances, parking problems, poorly maintained properties and potential zoning and/or housing infractions. The committee will consist of 5 members each residing in affected neighborhoods. The committee plans to meet for the first time this month and will discuss how we plan to prevent the rapid growth of student housing facilities in our quiet residential neighborhoods.

We also plan to facilitate action and go before City Council to request a change in the current ordinance which allows up to a maximum of 6 unrelated people to reside in a Single Family Dwelling. This number should be less in certain neighborhoods and not be the same across the board. What is allowed on West Campus should not be allowed all over Austin. Student housing facilities do not promote a compatible pattern of land use when it's not typical for the area. As homeowners it is our responsibility to preserve the image, perception and character of our neighborhoods not disrupt it. Noise disturbances and Nuisances affect the quality of life and enjoyment of our property. With the support of each neighborhood association, the ANC and affected property owners we stand a better chance in successfully addressing these issues and preserving our neighborhoods . For anyone presently dealing with these issues please feel free to contact me. The more involvement the better.

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