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# White: Proposed high-rise rules may take 7 months

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Mayor Bill White said he plans to delay an ordinance intended to ease traffic congestion created by high-rise developments, possibly through September.

At his weekly press conference following the City Council meeting Feb. 13, White said the postponement would allow time for public hearings to be held.

City officials said the mayor's office would try to convince the Ashby high-rise developers, Buckhead Investment Partners, to extend their agreement not to seek permits during what could be a seven-month period.

The council had already moved for a two-week delay in the ordinance during which time the developer had agreed not to pursue permits.

Repeated attempts to reach Buckhead Investments by phone were unsuccessful.

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based on a sidewalk ordinance that dates back to the 1930s.

There was some indication from the city that rules pertaining to high-rises and density might be covered in a traffic ordinance under consideration by the Transportation, Infrastructure and Aviation Committee, chaired by Councilwoman Sue Lovell.

The developers of the Ashby high-rise have offered two alternative projects for the site that were turned down by representatives of Stop Ashby High Rise Task Force.

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## **RULES**

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One plan suggested the proposed 23-story building at 1717 Bissonnet St. could be reduced to 19 stories, if larger residential units were sold. Partners Kevin Kirton and Matthew Morgan, however, wanted to reserve the right to return to the original plan if sales fell short.

The second offer asked for a cash payment of \$2.65 million in exchange for limiting the structure to two stories of parking and four stories of dwellings.

A statement from task force member Ronald E. Kahane, who is also the Boulevard Oaks Civic Association president, said raising such a sum of money for "absolutely no economic interest is sim-

ply not feasible."

Prior to the mayor's announcement, changes to the draft ordinance suggested at the council meeting were:

■ Councilwoman Anne Clutterbuck asked that off-street parking spaces be required that are at least 100 percent more than the number already provided by the property it is replacing;

■ Councilwoman Toni Lawrence wanted the term "multifamily residential" replaced with "residential" in the definition of types of neighborhoods the ordinance would pertain to;

■ Councilman Adrian Garcia suggested the deletion of the phrase "two-way traffic," concerning the locations of high-rises where the new guidelines could be applied.