



## TOP STORIES

### Residents fight high-rise plan

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By Lee McGuire / 11 News

A group of well-organized, well-financed and influential neighbors are hoping public pressure will convince a developer to scale back plans for a 23-story residential high rise at Bissonnet and Ashby.



Here's a look at the project

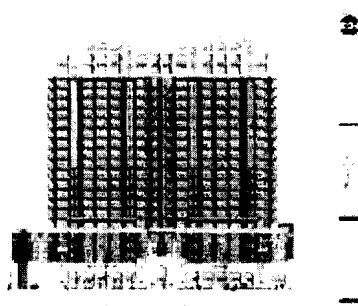
About 50 of them attended Tuesday's City Council public meeting, in which Houston residents bring their concerns before elected officials.

Jim Reeder lives about a block away from the tower site.

"We need to look at this project, and see whether it can be scaled down," he said. "Let's talk to the developers and do something that's more in keeping with this neighborhood."

Developers Matthew Morgan and Kevin Kirton purchased an apartment complex that currently sits on the site. Under their proposal, the 23-story environmentally-friendly tower would hold between 150 and 250 units, depending on its design.

The apartment currently on the site has about 60 units.



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11 News obtained this copy of the developer's plan for the building.

Reeder is concerned about the traffic impact the building would have on the neighborhood, which is bounded by two-lane streets. He points to the development as an example of why the Houston City Council needs to act more aggressively to prevent large-scale development.

He suggests amending the city's hotel ordinance, which requires hotels to be built on streets that have at least four lanes.

The developers told 11 News they have no plans to change the design of the building, and that they followed all of the city's rules for development. They also dispute the residents' claims their building will cause traffic jams in the area.