



Village NEWS



Serving West University, Southampton, Southgate, Southside Place, River Oaks, The Upper Kirby District, The Medical Center, Braeswood Place, Boulevard Oaks, Linkwood, Woodside, Old Braeswood, Morningside Place and Sunset Terrace

Partners in Local News
Coverage with
KPRC-TV-Channel 2

Update: High Density Developments

By Kate Bolen

Ashby High-Rise

Houston's city council voted to delay for 90 days an ordinance that could force developers of the high-rise at 1717 Bissonnet at Ashby to severely modify or abandon their plans.

The ordinance calls for traffic impact studies for high density projects whose traffic exits onto two-lane, two-way roads.

Mayor Bill White said the delay was not a ploy to derail the ordinance but to improve it. White also said he still stands behind residents' efforts to stop developers Matthew Morgan and Kevin Kirton from continuing their project.

"My message to the [Buckhead] developers ... you better stop this thing because I'm going to stop it unless you stop it," White said.

Council Member Anne Clutterbuck was the only council member to vote against the 90-day delay. Clutterbuck has been the voice for the Southampton and Boulevard Oaks communities regarding the high-rise.

"I am hopeful that this ordinance will help retain the integrity of our residential neighborhoods, while still allowing for higher density development that is appropriate for residential neighborhoods," Clutterbuck said.

A hold has also been placed on all activity surrounding the high-rise during the 90-day delay. This includes the return of all submissions for permits and requests made by the developers to the city. Deputy Director Andy Icken said he plans to rescind all approvals that happened prior to Nov. 7. Icken also notified Morgan and Kirton that they cannot initiate meetings or any walk-thru reviews during this time.

Morgan and Kirton's request to continue with their second traffic impact analysis was also denied.

Morgan said the ordinance, as it is written now, would have a negative impact on development in Houston.

Kirton said they are disappointed in the city because the proposed ordinance is obviously targeting their project.

"It's terribly unfortunate for Houston that the City is heading in this direction," Kirton said. "The national real estate investment community surely is taking notice, and that can't be good for the future of development in Houston."