



Village NEWS



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Southampton Calls Emergency Meeting

By Kate Bolen

The Southampton Civic Club and Boulevard Oaks Civic Association will co-host an emergency town hall meeting this week regarding a 23-story high-rise residential/commercial building proposed for 1717 Bissonnet.

The meeting will take place at Poe Elementary

School at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20. Citizens will be given a chance to voice their opinions about the project.

Southampton Civic Club and BOCA representatives met with developers Matthew Morgan and Kevin Kirton Sept. 7 to go over the initial plans for the high-rise.

"The massive height of

the structure, its equally large impacts on traffic, safety, property values, and privacy, and its shocking indifference to the neighborhood were an immediate and overwhelming concern to us," said Erik Eriksson, civic club president.

On Monday, Sept. 10, the board of directors of the civic

club met in emergency session, to consider taking action on this threat to our neighborhood.

"The board unanimously resolved to oppose the development, devote the efforts of the civic club to educating the community and local leaders about its destructive effects, and persuade the developers to alter their plans to respect the scale and character of their neighborhood," Eriksson said.

As a first step in these efforts, the Southampton Civic Club, along with the Boulevard Oaks Civic Association, have invited residents and local leaders to the town hall meeting

"Houston homeowners must act against projects that exploit their neighbors and take more than their fair share of the public resources we have all built and paid for," Eriksson said.

Construction is set to begin in spring, 2008, and the project is expected to be fully occupied by 2010.

The site for the high-rise is currently occupied by Maryland Manor Apartments.

Morgan and Kirton own Buckhead Investment Partners Inc.