

# Friends of Hyde Park

FriendsofHydePark.com

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City Council Members,

First, we would like to congratulate each of you on your recent election. It is an exciting time for Austin and we look forward to the new city council and the continued growth of our city.

We represent Friends of Hyde Park, a new neighborhood association in Hyde Park. We are open to all residents, business owners, and property owners in Hyde Park, and we think the voice of all stakeholders should be more available to city leaders, especially in light of the new emphasis on citizen communication. After only a few short weeks, we are already the largest neighborhood association in Hyde Park with over 190 members and growing. We have no membership fees, and all of our voting is done securely online, over several days for the greatest stakeholder input. All voters are verified, and the names of all voters are presented with every vote for independent verification.

We are addressing you today to share the results of our first vote. Because this issue is appearing soon before the council, we thought it would be good to weigh in on. The text of the resolution was:

**"In order to increase housing options for renters and provide more flexibility for property owners, I support easing restrictions on accessory dwelling units (granny flats, secondary apartments, garage apartments)."**

Our members voted 91 in favor and 65 opposed.

While the current working draft by city staff to address changes to accessory dwelling units is a great start, the Friends of Hyde Park board members believe that the Planning Commission and the city council should consider lowering the lot size requirements to build an ADU. With increasing property taxes, it might be one of the pieces of the puzzle that allows some homeowners to stay in their homes. ADUs provide the additional benefit of starting to address the lack of housing options for Austinites and provide owners with the flexibility to house their elderly or disabled family members that need family care.

We look forward to working with the city to address important issues that impact both the city and Hyde Park. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can be of any help in the future.

Thank you,

Friends of Hyde Park Board Members