

**Comments to Zoning Commission**

**on**

**Camp Bullis Lighting Overlay District**

*November 18, 2008*

My name is Ted Trakas. I am president of the Vance Jackson Neighborhood, Inc. I have been authorized by our board to address you. I have two concerns to share.

The first concern is procedural. I have searched web sites for the DSD, UDC, OMA, Joint Study, and so forth and have not found a copy of the proposed ordinance. Quoting from your agenda, how do we have a “public hearing, consideration and recommendation of a proposed amendment” without seeing it?

My second concern pertains to Off-Premise Billboards and Digital Billboards.

Urban and Scenic Corridor Ordinances have protected I-10, 281, 1604 and other corridors in San Antonio. The relative scarcity of billboards on I-10, 281 and 1604 that Camp Bullis currently enjoys is a legacy of these ordinances.

But on December 6, 2007, City Council passed the digital billboard pilot program, authorizing 15 new, bright digital billboards in the city. This pilot program removed Urban and Scenic Corridor protections. It does not require removal of old billboards in the same area where new digital billboards are placed. Hence old billboards can be removed from outside of the Camp Bullis area, and new, bright digital billboards can be added to the area. Given traffic and income patterns, Northside San Antonio, including the area around Camp Bullis, will be targeted for digital billboards.

I request that the Zoning Commission put the proposed ordinance in continuance so that it can be distributed for review. I request that the commission require conservative and restrictive controls of off-premise billboards and digital billboards in the Overlay ordinance. And please do not rely on any other ordinance, which may be randomly changed or nullified in the future.

Billboards are in the business of blaring out light and are fundamentally incompatible and undesirable in a ‘dark skies’ area.