

Red McCombs Wants to Close a Public Street

(Specifically, Mockingbird Lane between Greatview & I-10 Access Road)

On August 20th, I received an email from Jesse Quesada, Management Analyst, 207-6971, which included a 'Canvassing Sheet' for Special Project 1402.

Special Project 1402 concerned a petition from McCombs Family, LTD. C/o Kaufman & Associates that requested the closure, vacation and abandonment of an improved portion of Mockingbird Lane Public Right of Way. Mockingbird connects Greatview with the IH-10W access road, just north of Callaghan. It lies between the McCombs car dealerships and the HighPoint shopping center, which McCombs also owns. The petition requested the change "to allow safe access for its employees and customers who frequently access both of its properties for business".

Since the city allows 30 days for a reply, I took the time to contact various persons associated with the Sugar Hill Apartments, the office building on Greatview, neighbors in the Foothills, etc. I received responses that were overwhelmingly opposed to the request. I also learned from a former VJNI president that McCombs made this same request with the same argument over 10 years ago. His request received the same, negative reception from neighbors and was rejected by the city.

On September 17th, I gave Jesse our VJNI reply:

"Vance Jackson Neighborhood, Inc. is opposed to the petition to close Mockingbird Lane by McCombs Family, LTD., C/o Kaufman & Associates, Attn: Lucy M. Peveto, 100 West Houston Street, Suite 1250, San Antonio, Texas 78205-1457.

Residents and office workers on Greatview rely on Mockingbird Lane for access to I-10, a major highway. Mockingbird has no inherent safety issues.

This petition appears to be primarily motivated by commercial interest and should be rejected by the City of San Antonio."

So in my mind, the \$64,000 question is why does McCombs think he would receive any different response or outcome this time? Stay tuned. For the latest details, see the association web site at www.vjni.org/Zoning-Cases.

Ted Trakas