

**Position Statement**  
**on**  
**McCombs' Petition to Close and Seize Mockingbird**  
(City of San Antonio Special Project 1402)

**Issue**

In the summer of 2008, Red McCombs petitioned the city of San Antonio to close and abandon Mockingbird, which is a street that connects Greatview with the I-10 W access road. McCombs would then purchase the public road property at "fair market value" and link his dealership and strip mall (HighPoint) properties.

**Background**

Obviously McCombs has big development plans for Mockingbird. He tried to grab it at least 2 times in the past. In the mid-90s when Bill Thornton was mayor, Vance Jackson Neighborhood, Inc. (VJNI), Foothills neighbors, and Greatview residents and business people opposed his petition and City Council rejected it. Around 4 years ago in 2005, business concerns on Greatview learned of a similar seizure action and stopped it in city staff.

**Findings**

Residents of Sugar Hills Apartment and tenants of Greatview Office building use Mockingbird for access to I-10 West. Mockingbird provides a secondary exit for Greatview, in the case of an accident on Callaghan.

Arguments for closing Mockingbird for safety reasons are not credible, to the point of being ludicrous and insulting.

The proposal to replace Mockingbird by permitting access to I-10 via the front and back parking lots and rear alley of Highpoint Strip Mall is not comparable or acceptable in terms of quality of life. Additionally, no safety study has been presented to show that the alternate access (via 2 parking lots and an alley) is as safe as or safer than continued use of a public street.

**Position**

Replacing a public street with a trail through 2 parking lots and a rear alley of HighPoint is obviously bad for public safety and quality of life. Abandonment of Mockingbird, which is public property, for personal enrichment of McCombs is not in the public interest. VJNI is opposed to Special Project 1402.

**Ted Trakas, President**

**Vance Jackson Neighborhood, Inc (VJNI)**

**[www.vjni.org](http://www.vjni.org)**