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**From:** JT

**To**

**Date:** Thu, 5 Mar 2009 22:59:45 -0600

**Subject:** RE: McCombs is stuffing the ballot box on Mockingbird

I went to the council meeting today.

Got there about 8:45 with PH down the street and we were finally up around 2:30. (City Council had to deliberate how they are going to spend the millions and millions of "stimulus" package money. Really.) There were four of us naysayers that signed up to speak. Each person is allocated 3 minutes, so we had a total of 12 minutes. We yielded our time to Ted since he had put together a presentation.

McCombs took a petition across Calaghan and got 266 signatures in favor of closing Mockingbird Lane. It wasn't a vote: if the person they were soliciting disagreed, they simply couldn't sign the petition so they moved on to the next house. Council had 49 letters ('Written Testimony' forms) from us, mostly Sugarhill Apartments but some in Colonies North and Fallen Leaf.

Councilwoman Cibrian moved to accept McCombs' petition and the council followed suit. Mockingbird will be closed. McCombs will pay the city \$181,000 for the property and will make a street out of the alley behind High Point Office bldg. The 266 petition was not legitimate but we had no opportunity to challenge the source, how the question was posed, can't sign it if you disagree, etc.

A lot went on at that place and if you ever have a chance to go for a visit, take the opportunity. It is a good experience. All the council was very nice, especially to each other but to the presenters as well. Ted did an excellent job except he spoke French in places.

I think we need to support someone else besides Ms Cibrian for Mayor. McCombs is supporting her candidacy so it did not surprise us that it went the way it did. She is just not constituent based. She'll do it if it meets her agenda. Julian Castro sounds good but so does Trish Deberry Mejia. Ya'll listen up!

Jimmy