



# MEMORIAL THICKET HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

702 PLAINWOOD DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77079  
713.501.5406  
WWW.MEMORIALTHICKET.ORG

May 3, 2016

The Honorable Sylvester Turner  
Mayor of Houston  
P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, Texas 77251

*via E-Mail*

Dear Mayor Turner,

Memorial Thicket<sup>SM</sup> homeowners were surprised that you are considering eliminating Solid Waste Sponsorship Agreements as part of the effort to balance the City's budget for FY2017. We applaud your progress in balancing the budget, but believe eliminating the agreements and the concomitant reimbursement will not result in your projected savings of \$3.5 million as the preliminary budget unrealistically assumes that every civic association that has a Solid Waste Sponsorship Agreement will forgo the reimbursement and continue using private solid waste collection. This proposal will most likely result in higher City solid waste collection costs and no City savings when many civic associations switch to City collection to balance their budgets as a result of the loss of all City reimbursement.

The reimbursement of \$6.00 per home per month that began in the 1970s was originally intended to offset most or all of the private trash pickup expense so that taxpayers did not pay twice for solid waste collection, first in taxes and then again in private collection costs. While the reimbursement amount remained the same, solid waste costs have increased such that today the City spends three times as much as the reimbursement is for each residence.

As such, Memorial Thicket currently subsidizes the City \$12 per month per residence, or over \$22,000 per year for our 159 lots. Under the proposed budget, you are requiring that Memorial Thicket subsidize the City an additional \$6 per month per residence, or over \$11,000 per year.

Our neighborhood signed a new solid waste collection contract last year. For less than a \$1 more per month per residence than what the City says it costs to provide service, our neighborhood has twice weekly back door service and once a week back door recycling that includes glass. One would think the City should be able to offer better terms of service or have a better cost structure with its significantly larger purchasing power as compared to our small neighborhood.

If the City determines not to renew its Solid Waste Sponsorship Agreement with Memorial Thicket, then the City should be prepared to undertake the collection of solid waste in Memorial Thicket and, most likely, for thousands of other homeowners as soon as the reimbursement is terminated.

Best Regards,

Phil Richardson  
President  
Memorial Thicket Homeowners Association, Inc.

Mayor Turner

May 3, 2016

Page 2

Cc: Greg Sergesketter, Chair Memorial Super Neighborhood  
Greg Travis, Councilman District G  
Mike Knox, Councilman at Large  
David Robinson, Councilman at Large  
Michael Kubosh, Councilman at Large  
Amanda Edwards, Councilwoman at Large  
Jack Christie, Councilman at Large  
Brenda Stardig, Councilwoman District A  
Jerry Davis, Councilman District B  
Ellen Cohen, Councilwoman District C  
Dwight Boykins, Councilman District D  
Dave Martin, Councilman District E  
Steve Le, Councilman District F  
Karrla Cisneros, Councilwoman District H  
Robert Gallegos, Councilman District I  
Michael Laster, Councilman District J  
Larry Green, Councilman District K