

JIM MURPHY
Member
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
District 133 • Harris County



COMMITTEES
Ways & Means
Corrections, *Chairman*

February 12, 2016

Mr. Lance Gilliam
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Houston Housing Authority
2640 Fountain View Drive
Houston, TX 77057

Dear Chairman Gilliam:

HHA's proposed 2640 Fountainview project should be shelved. We have followed it closely since last fall, and as events have unfolded, I am now compelled to express in writing my objection to any progress of this Houston Housing Authority project.

Legitimate reasons to halt progress on the 2640 Fountainview project have been raised by the community and several elected officials. I urge you to take notice of their letters and well-supported objections. Additionally, given the City of Houston's current budget problems, these funds should be re-directed to where they can be of better use.

Notwithstanding the obvious pitfalls of this project -- lack of transparency, shortage of elementary school space, its outrageous budget, and undesirable location -- I am very concerned about the cost of this project to our community, as well as the anticipated request for a 4% tax credit from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Please be advised that while a points-based system approval process is not in place for a 4% tax credit, I will oppose this project in this respect.

As stewards of public funds, you have a fiduciary responsibility to make the details of this project publicly available so that potential neighbors, affected by the proposed project, have the opportunity to evaluate the impact to our community thoroughly.

Any further work on the proposed project should cease until the financial details have been made available to the public so that my constituents, fellow elected officials, and I may fully evaluate its ramifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Murphy".

Jim Murphy

cc: Congressman John Culberson
Senator Joan Huffman
City Councilor Greg Travis
HISD Trustee Harvin Moore
John F. Luman III, Esq.