



January 2, 2015

To whom it may concern:

The subdivisions that comprise Boulevard Oaks Civic Association request that the City of Houston approve variance applications for replacement of sidewalks within our boundaries and subdivisions. Our neighborhood is known for its stately oak trees and has been called “the most magnificent arbor of street trees in North America” by the New York Times. The neighborhood is a destination for many visitors to our city and is another Memorial Park for Houstonians who enjoy walking and jogging our tree-lined streets.

Boulevard Oaks consists of the following 23 subdivisions:

Broadacres, Cherokee Addition, Chevy Chase, Cresmere Place, Edgemont, Greenbriar Addition, Hermann Hospital Estates, Keithly Place, Melon Addition, North Edgemont, O. Smith Survey, Ranch Estates, Southampton Estates, Southampton Place Townhomes, Southampton East, Southampton Oaks, Sunset Lea, Sunset Place, Turner Addition, Vassar Place, Vassar Court, West Edgemont, West Ormond Place, Wroxton Court.

The original sidewalks in this historic neighborhood were built at 4' in width. Sidewalks should be replaced at this width to ensure that they do not damage street trees which are the signature feature of our neighborhood. In addition, when all of the surrounding sidewalks are only 4 ft. in width, it makes no sense to replace a single sidewalk in front of one home on a block at a wider width than its neighbors. In fact, this practice presents a danger for pedestrians who are at risk of running into retaining walls and other obstructions when sidewalks do not line up with narrower ones.

The City's Urban Forestry division is familiar with this area and its constraints and should be notified whenever a new sidewalk is requested.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

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BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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