

**WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION (WAC) and  
GREATER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE (GHCA)  
SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of the organization shall be **WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION (WAC)/GREATER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE (GHCA) SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**, hereinafter referred to as **WAC/GHCA Super Neighborhood Council**.

**ARTICLE II - BOUNDARIES**

The **WAC/GHCA Super Neighborhood Council** is bounded as set out in the map attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**ARTICLE III - PURPOSE**

**Section 3.1** - The **WAC/GHCA Super Neighborhood Council** is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) and/or 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and an application may be filed with the Internal Revenue Service for the 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) nonprofit status, if and when so determined by the Super Neighborhood Council.

**Section 3.2** - The purpose for which this Super Neighborhood Council is organized shall be to promote the civic betterment and social welfare and well-being of those certain residents, business and property owners within the boundaries of the Washington Avenue Coalition (WAC) and the Greater Heights Community Alliance (GHCA), to promote and engage in activities for their use and benefit. These organizations within the Washington Avenue Coalition and Greater Heights Community Alliance being situated in Houston, Harris County, Texas, and being that area identified in Article II.

The general purpose and power of the corporation are to have and exercise all rights and powers conferred on nonprofit corporations under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and other laws of Texas, of those powers which may hereinafter be conferred, and (i) to seek a consensus and provide citizens with opportunities to advise the City Council on issues important to each neighborhood; (ii) undertake a wide range of neighborhood improvement projects determined by the members; and (iii) with the cooperation from the City of Houston, identify and develop solutions to mutual problems.

Notwithstanding any of the above statements of purposes and powers, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the primary purpose of this corporation.

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**ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the **WAC/GHCA Super Neighborhood Council** shall consist of one duly designated representative of eligible organizations such as a civic club, tenants' associations, neighborhood block associations, nonprofit public service organizations, community business organizations, etc., which operates within the boundaries of the Washington Avenue Coalition (WAC) area or the Greater Heights Community Alliance (GHCA) area. Any one of these entities may include churches, businesses, schools and other institutions situated and conducting business within the geographic boundaries of the said Super Neighborhood Council. This is not to be understood that any one church or business, etc., would have a seat at the council table, but rather that they participate through an appropriate duly organized neighborhood organization. Special interest groups are specifically excluded, i.e., governmental entities and ad hoc committees.

Any stakeholder within the Super Neighborhood shall have the right to be represented through either existing or new eligible organizations.

Super Neighborhood Council participation shall be confirmed at the beginning of each regular meeting of the full Super Neighborhood Council.

#### **ARTICLE V SUBCOMMITTEE and SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**Section 5.1** - The Sub-Committee consists of a chair from the Washington Avenue Coalition (WAC) area and a chair from the Greater Heights Community Alliance (GHCA) area, both of whom shall act as co-chairs. The functions of the Sub-Committee shall include, but not be limited to: convening and administering Sub-Committee and Super Neighborhood Council meetings to approve and set policies; to evaluate projects; communicate with City government and with Super Neighborhood Council members; communicate with the City Liaison Super Neighborhood Council Coordinator; promote participation in City governance; establish committees to carry out these and other functions as needed.

**Section 5.2** - The Super Neighborhood Council shall be comprised of one duly appointed representative from the participating eligible organizations, as stated in Article IV. Each stakeholder organization representative of the Super Neighborhood shall hold one seat on the council and allowed one vote on issues that come before the Super Neighborhood Council.

The function of the Super Neighborhood Council shall be to assist the Sub-Committee in making policies, evaluating projects, setting goals and to act on behalf of the Super Neighborhood Council as voted on and required.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, membership dues for the Washington Avenue Coalition/Greater Heights Community Alliance, if any, will be waived for those members designated as representatives to the Super Neighborhood Council.

Super Neighborhood-at-large/residents may participate via meetings open to the public and will be notified of decisions through their participating organizations, respective monthly civic association meetings/newsletters and may be published in various newspapers available to the communities.

The WAC/GHCA Super Neighborhood Council activity shall be conducted in open meetings where all residents may observe discussions and participate. An individual wishing to speak to the Super Neighborhood Council shall sign a "Speakers List" at the beginning of the meeting and shall be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Exclusion of any individual or organization based on race, creed, color, region, gender, sexual orientation or national origin from participating in the super neighborhood council activities or serving as a council member shall be prohibited.

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#### **ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS**

**Section 6.1** - The officers shall consist of a WAC area Co-Chair and a GHCA area Co-Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

**Section 6.2** - The functions of the Co-Chairs - as set out in Article V.

**Section 6.3** - The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of proceedings of all meetings, attend to correspondence, when applicable, act as custodian of all records, as well as maintain current membership information and attendance records.

**Section 6.4** - The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all financial transactions, receive all monies, and deposit funds in the bank. This officer shall disburse monies as authorized by the Sub-Committee and Super Neighborhood Council. The Treasurer shall present a report of finances at each Super Neighborhood Council meeting. Checks disbursed shall contain the signature of the Treasurer as well as the signature of a Co-Chair or the Secretary.

**Section 6.5** - The initial co-chairs, duly elected at a regular meeting of WAC and of GHCA shall serve for a two-year period.

**Section 6.6 - Future election and term of office** - The WAC area and GHCA area Co-Chairs shall be elected by a quorum of the voting members respective organizations, at the November meeting of their expiring terms, and the duly elected Co-Chairs at said meeting shall take office the following January; the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by a quorum of the voting members of the **WAC/GHCA Neighborhood Council** at the November meeting of their expiring terms and take office the following January.

**Section 6.7** - No officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

**Section 6.8** - A vacancy in an office shall be filled by a special election. Officers elected to fill the vacancy shall assume office at the first meeting following the special election and shall hold office until the next regular installation of officers.

**Section 6.9** - Any officer who fails to meet the obligations of their office may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at a Super Neighborhood Council meeting where a quorum is present.

#### **ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS**

**Section 7.1** - Meetings of the Sub-Committee and meetings of the Super Neighborhood Council shall be held not less frequently than quarterly. *The day, time and location to be determined.*

**Section 7.2** - In the event that a meeting falls on a legal holiday, the time and date shall be set by the Co-Chairs at a preceding meeting.

**Section 7.3** - Special meetings may be called by a Co-Chair or by the written request to one or both of the Co-Chairs by a quorum of the members. The Co-Chairs will call requested meetings within a two (2) week time frame.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES**

**Section 8.1** - Committees shall be established as the need arises by the Sub-Committee Co-Chairs.

**Section 8.2** - The committee chairperson shall appoint committee members.

#### **ARTICLE IX - PROCEDURES**

"Robert's Rules of Order" shall be the guide for procedure in all points of order not covered by the By-Laws.

#### **ARTICLE X - AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

These By-Laws may be amended from time to time on an as needed basis by resolution in writing, presented at a meeting of the Super Neighborhood Council, read and approved by a two-thirds majority vote at two consecutive meetings at which a quorum is present at each meeting.

The number of representatives constituting the Initial Representatives of the Super Neighborhood Council is twenty-three (23), and the names and addresses of the organization member who are to serve as the initial representatives are:

<u>NAME/ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Marci Perry, First Ward (WAC)	1619 Weber, Houston TX 77007
Mark Joyce, Magnolia Grove (WAC)	501 Barber, Houston TX 77007
Liz McMillin, Old Sixth Ward (WAC)	609 Henderson, Houston TX 77007
Lynn Cason, Rice Military (WAC)	305 Reinicke, Houston TX 77007
Carrie Wilson, West End (WAC)	4208 Spenser, Houston TX 77007
Sammy Patrenella, West End Business Group (WAC)	813 Jackson Hill, Houston TX 77007
Mary Lawler, Avenue CDC (WAC)	1200 Kane, Houston TX 77007
Bessie Stratton, Washington Avenue Coalition (WAC) Chair	1419 Cohn, Houston TX 77007
Yvonne Fuentes, Woodcrest Neighborhood Civic Association, Inc.	6024 Truro, Houston, TX 77007
Tony Ercolani, Greater Heights Community Alliance (GHCA) Chair	607 West 10th, Houston TX 77008
† Alma Barley, Lower Heights (GHCA)	818 Herkimer, Houston TX 77007
† Peter Bolds, Heights West (GHCA)	1147 Tulane, Houston TX 77008
† Allan Tiller, Houston Heights (GHCA)	611 East 9th, Houston TX 77008
† Matt Hartzel, Woodland Heights (GHCA)	P.O. Box 7754, Houston TX 77270
† Doris Anderson, Heights Progressive (GHCA)	803 ½ West 20th, Houston TX 77008
† Al Morrow, Sunset Heights (GHCA)	502 Aurora, Houston, Texas 77008
† Evelyn Born-Shanley, Clark Pines (GHCA)	1815 West 14th, Houston, Texas 77008
† Amelia Gonzalez, Montie Beach (GHCA)	1205 Walton, Houston TX 77009
† Dennis Sigut, Proctor Plaza (GHCA)	406 Moss, Houston TX 77009
† E.I. Smith, Cottage Grove (GHCA)	5635 Kansas, Houston TX 77007
† David Winship (GHCA)	545 West 19th, Houston TX 77008
† Karin Dunn, CDC (GHCA)	P.O. Box 70196, Houston TX 77270
† Charles Traylor, Shady Acres (GHCA)	1427 West 22nd, Houston TX 77008

The above representatives are for the purpose of initiating the By-Laws and shall not to be construed as limiting the number of representatives eligible to participate in the Super Neighborhood Council.

**ARTICLE XI**

The Super Neighborhood Council may be dissolved with the assent given in writing and signed by not less than two-thirds of the membership.

# WAC/GHCA

## Super Neighborhood Council WAC - Area 22 // GHCA - Area 15

c/o Tony Ercolani ~ P. O. Box #70435 ~ Houston, Texas 77270-0435  
c/o Bessie Stratton ~ P. O. Box 66751 ~ Houston, Texas 77266-6751

November 5, 1999

### Member Groups

RE: 'PROPOSED' SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)

Dear Community Members:

With the best interest of the respective communities in mind, representatives from the Greater Heights and Washington Avenue groups have been working with the City of Houston Planning & Development Department over the past several months to initiate SNC by-laws. A special committee was formed (by member vote) to create by-laws for the proposed SNC. After several sessions of working and/or corresponding with Planning & Development, we were able to come up with a fair and basic set of by-laws. The 'committee' was formed to expedite the by-laws formation process and to expedite approval and/or acceptance before City Council as a 'Recognized' Super Neighborhood before year-end. Many of us have been meeting since May 1997 to develop the neighborhood council concept for the City and to prioritize the aims and goals for the area. Now it is time to move forward.

Attached, you will find the by-laws that will be presented to City Council (we understand) later this month. The said by-laws are based on the Super Neighborhood guidelines, have been accepted by the Planning & Development Department and are being used as a prototype and being distributed to other proposed Super Neighborhoods.

The 'by-laws' committee requests your presence for a formal overview at a meeting to be held on Monday, November 15, 1999, 6:30 PM, at Union Planters Bank, located at 999 N. Shepherd. You may submit, *in writing*, any suggestions and/or questions with regard to the said by-laws; however, remember these by-laws are the prototype approved by the city, and no change will be considered prior to that meeting. Once we are recognized by City Council, the committee will reconvene and review any written suggestions submitted by the SNC members, as well as any suggestions brought about by City Council.

Again, thanks for all of your continued support. We look forward to working together as the first recognized Super Neighborhood Council and our ongoing efforts to keep the Greater Heights and Washington Avenue areas the SAFEST and BEST place to live and work and play.

Respectfully,



Tony Ercolani, GHCA Chair



Bessie Stratton, WAC Chair