Response from Jennifer Gates regarding development.

Monday, February 03, 2014

Good morning Ms. Parks,
Thank you for reaching out to Councilmember Jennifer Gates with your concern about the proposed development at Preston and Northwest Highway. Please see Councilmember Gates’ conflict of interest statement below regarding this issue:

Re:  Conflict of Interest Regarding Potential Change of Zoning at the Northeast Corner of Northwest Highway and Preston Road The city of Dallas has strict regulations regarding conflicts of interest to ensure fair and impartial decision making and to avoid the appearance and risk of impropriety. A city councilmember may not take action on a matter if he or she knows it is likely to affect particularly their economic interest, the economic interest of their outside employer, clients, or business entities; or the economic interest of their spouse, their spouse’s employer, clients, or business entities.

When a councilmember knows he or she has an economic interest in a matter, the councilmember must recuse him or herself and must immediately refrain from further participation, including discussions with any persons likely to consider the matter.

My spouse’s company is involved in a business transaction related to the potential change of zoning at the northeast corner of Northwest Highway and Preston Road.  To comply with city regulations, I have recused myself from this matter and must refrain from further participation.

Because I have recused myself from this matter and must refrain from further participation, I could not have attended the January 25, 2014 community meeting and may not attend or participate in any other meetings or discussions.

Because I must refrain from participation, I have asked Councilmember Kleinman to respond to citizen questions and comments. Councilmember Kleinman may be reached at 214.670.7817. Also, Margot Murphy, District 13’s City Plan Commissioner, is aware of the matter and attended the January 25, 2014 community meeting. Ms. Murphy may be reached at 214.670.3086 or by email at margotmurphycpc13@gmail.com. Best regards, Jennifer Gates    As stated, please direct further communication regarding this matter to either Councilmember Lee Kleinman or City Plan Commissioner Margot Murphy. They are happy to listen to your concerns. Sincerely,  Beth PazarCouncil Assistant to Councilmember Jennifer Staubach GatesDistrict 13(214) 670-3816 Elizabeth.Pazar@dallascityhall.com