

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING Council Member Hosts New Residential Construction Symposium

(Northeast) Dallas, TX—The Lake Highlands area boasts a blend of homes ranging from early ranch homes of the 1950's and mid-century modern architecture through more contemporary homes built in the 1990's, but one thing remains the same—neighborhood character, according to the people who live there. Recently, Lake Highlands has become the site of new development. Blending the old with the new takes thoughtful planning. With that in mind, District 10 City Council Member Jerry R. Allen held a New Residential Construction Symposium at Royal Oaks Country Club.

The Symposium brought together builders, renovators, and developers currently building in Lake Highlands as well as more than twenty Lake Highlands Neighborhood leaders.

“It’s important that everyone come to the table for open dialogue,” said Councilmember Allen. “In order for our neighborhoods to grow the way we want them to, we need to know where each other is coming from and then we can head in the same direction.”

The purpose was to begin a dialogue between the two groups and to help educate builders and residents alike as to how to best embrace new construction while maintaining the integrity of the existing neighborhoods.

“Tear-downs are a new thing here,” said Preservation Architect and Lake Highlands resident Marcel Quimby. “People who live here are very concerned, not that it’s happening, but that the new construction is compatible, complementary and respectful of the existing neighborhood character.”

Ms. Quimby presented a power point with ideas on how to build larger homes that will fit in to existing neighborhoods.

An additional presentation entitled “What Makes Lake Highlands, *Lake Highlands?*” was given to share the history of the neighborhood. Lake Highlands Area Improvement Association Board Member and Lake Highlands resident Jack White facilitated the program and the question and answer session that followed.

Council Member Allen said “We’re ahead of the curve here. People feel strongly about where they live and what makes their neighborhoods feel like home. We’ve watched what has happened in other parts of the city when homes are torn down and replaced with homes neighbors don’t believe fit in. That hasn’t happened here yet and we hope this meeting will help ensure that the new construction can be something everyone is happy with.”

Presenters hope this is the first of many meetings and are hoping to make additional presentations at other Lake Highlands neighborhood group meetings.

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