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211 Lamar passes Planning Commission



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The Austin Planning Commission recommended the controversial 211 Lamar development by a 5-3 vote after a discussion that pitted neighbors against developers.

Developers Post Investment Group of Los Angeles and Ascension Development of Dallas are petitioning the city to replace a **Taco Cabana** with a 96-foot residential building. The area is currently zoned to allow for only 65 feet. The height increase has irked neighbors who argue that the added density is too great and that the larger building would clash with the neighborhood.

[Steve Drenner](#), an attorney for the developers, framed the debate as a choice between a sparse 60-foot apartment complex and a 96-foot condo building with modern amenities and several community benefits.

He addressed many of the concerns raised by neighbors at the most recent meeting and in the past about the building's size and its impact on South Austin and the nearby historical Paggi House.

The commission chose the higher-density building and community benefits over a shorter building.

Barring any additional postponements, the City Council will have the final say on the project at its June 20 meeting.

Find additional coverage of the meeting online, along with [a slideshow depicting the developer's plans](#) for the space.

Robert Grattan covers government, courts and economic development for the Austin Business Journal.