

Date:

To: Travis County Commissioner Jeffrey Travillion  
Travis County Commissioner Brigid Shea

From: Pflugerville City Council  
Mayor Victor Gonzales  
Mayor Pro Tem Omar Peña  
Council Member Mike Heath  
Council Member Rudy Metayer  
Council Member David Rogers  
Council Member Ceasar Ruiz  
Council Member Doug Weiss

RE: January 21, 2021 memo re: Request to Approve Allowing Pflugerville / Pflugerville ETJ Voters to Participate in Emergency Service District No. 17 Election

We were disappointed by your memo.

We prefer that voters have continuing control over their taxing entities – like City Councils and County Commissions. We are surprised that you endorse stripping voters of control over their governing bodies.

Contrary to your assertion, Hutto has not approved inclusion in ESD #17, but has instead tabled the proposal, much like Pflugerville.

Your memo conflates “service provision” and creation of an unaccountable taxing entity.

There are a wide variety of ways to provide appropriate EMS services, as you well know. In fact, for many decades, Travis County provided EMS service to the Pflugerville area without either the intervention of ESD #2 or the creation of this proposed taxing district. It is unclear why the County is no longer providing this service, though Pflugerville residents continue to pay ever-increasing county taxes. Perhaps you can shed some light on the question of why Travis County no longer uses Pflugerville taxpayer contributions to save Pflugerville lives.

The fact that other elections have been held at other times by other people has no bearing on whether or not the creation of a new independent taxing entity is appropriate at this time and this place.

We agree that “provision of advanced life support, emergency ground response, and transport is important for all residents of Travis County” including Pflugerville. Which raises again the question of why Travis County has stripped Pflugerville of the resources for which its residents pay so dearly.

The City Council of Pflugerville will make a decision on this question at the appropriate time. But we will not be stampeded, panicked or gaslighted into abandoning our responsibility to our taxpayers to balance costs and benefits.

We hope that your future contributions to this discussion will be more constructive.