

Will Citizen Public Accountability demands be met?

Bill Stout, Co-Chair: Travis County Green Party

Is Austin becoming an increasingly 'UN-livable city' for many middle class families and people of color? As reflected in police officers' unabated killings of Minority civilians along with the well-documented cases of Public officials' abuse of our Citizens' civil liberties (with little due process protection seeming to apply in either) questions continue to be raised in Austin and Travis County!

NOKOA *The Observer*, as recent published articles reflect, has continued to call for the need for **Citizen** activism in demanding the Accountability of those in positions of public office. Last week's edition carried a front page statement by **Jim Harrington**, Director of Texas' Civil Rights Project, calling for an independent prosecutor to assure appropriate inquiry, action & due process in such cases. That article followed hard upon NOKOA's publication of the outspoken and candid demands by **Rudolph Williams**, President, Blackshear Neighborhood Association, for immediate attention and action on police abuses by Community leaders!

Early this year before the May Municipal elections, **NOKOA** ran a page-one article, "**City Accountability to Citizens' Questioned**" which documented in great detail many questions and issues raised about possible criminal abuse, negligence and City of Austin officials' coverup, brought to public attention by Austinite's Lobbying for Municipal Accountability, another East Austin group of homeowners which, in good company with Messrs. Williams and Harrington, seeks accountability of police and elected officials!

In December 2008, the Travis County Green Party (**TCGP**), made official referral to the Travis County District Attorney's office - on behalf of the Community - concerns raised on overall failure and/or refusal by Austin & Travis County police & public officials to act on matters brought to their attention - especially in the case of the many unresolved questions of possible criminal abuses, and mis/mal/nonfeasance in connection with Federal Housing Funds.

In addition, the **TCGP** has made a more recent referral and request for investigation to the United States Attorney for Texas' Western District - including those relating to public official abuse(s), **overall**, which are of special concern to both the civil rights groups and the neighborhood associations.

The Travis County Green Party has re-emphasized these ongoing concerns expressed by the growing number of individuals, groups, neighborhood organizations - and as reported in **NOKOA** - about the critical lack of responsiveness to Citizens questions by police and both elected and appointed officials at the City of Austin and Travis County!

Will these Citizen Public Accountability Demands be met?

Finally, a request in support of the (your) Public Interest, **NOKOA**, and **Travis County Greens** - Please write to the US Attorney in support of **TCGP's** request for investigation into issues addressed in this article, and our recent letter to their offices in San Antonio:

Letter to U.S. Attorney.pdf www.TravisCountyGreens.org

John E. Murphy

First Assistant US Attorney

(Acting US Attorney)

U.S. Attorney's Office

601 N.W. Loop 410, Suite 600

San Antonio, TX 78216

These unaddressed and unresolved matters are explained and detailed in the following links and articles:

- ["Where's CoA Accountability in Federal Fund Use? -- The Loan that Never Was:](#) An Austin family's experience

with the City of Austin's federally-funded home loan program." Nov. 29, 2009 http://www.austinaccountabilityproject.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/11_29_09_The_Loan_That_Never_Was.pdf

- Correspondence with former U.S. Attorney and Austin City Council members: www.austinaccountabilityproject.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/US_ATTYY_Consolidated.pdf

- ["City Accountability to Citizens Questioned"](http://www.nokoatheobserver.com/050709.htm) NOKOA May 7, 2009 <http://www.nokoatheobserver.com/050709.htm>

- ["Audit: Housing Authority cannot account for Millions in Federal funds"](http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/cityhall/entries/2009/08/26/), **Austin American Statesman**, August 26, 2009, by Suzannah Gonzales, www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/cityhall/entries/2009/08/26/

- **Acevedo Fires Olsen** *APD chief concludes that the Kevin Brown shooting warrants 'indefinite suspension'* **Austin Chronicle** <http://www.austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid:568560>