July 18, 2007

Commissioner Carol Lewis, Ph.D.
Chair
Planning Commission
City of Houston

Dr. Lewis,

The Parking Commission held a public hearing on July 10, 2007 to review the parking variance request from Rice University. In addition to public comments, Rice University representatives provided details for the Shakespeare St. Housing Project and additional information as requested by the Parking Commission.

A second public hearing was held on July 18, 2007 at 2 p.m. After weighing the necessity of the parking variance versus the rights and quality of life for the neighborhood, the Commission recommends granting the variance if Rice University commits in a legally binder manner to the following:

1. A reliable, timely, shuttle service operation to the Shakespeare graduate housing project as stated in their response to the Public Parking Commission dated July 13, 2007;
2. Rice University makes a commitment to address any potential problems;
3. Rice will develop a plan to address spillover parking issues should they occur; and
4. If use or ownership of the Shakespeare graduate housing project changes, the variance will no longer be in effect and the off-street parking requirements in Chapter 26 will be applied to the property.

We are uncertain if it is possible to obtain a binding commitment or whether a conditional approval is possible or enforceable. The City Legal Department should be consulted on this issue.

Sincerely,

M. Marvin Katz
Parking Commission Chair

C: Parking Commissioners
Liliana Rambo, CAPP, Chief Parking Official

Commission members: Joyce Camp Marcus L. Davis M. Marvin Katz Evalyn L. Krudy Joe R. Martin Howard Rose Charles O. Reedstrom Gerard Torres
Ex-officio: Ed Bradley Bob Eury Mariene Galfrick Mike Mercotte Dawn Ullrich Barron Wallace Frank Wilson