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DISTRICT OFFICE:

## The State of Texas House of Representatibes District 117

March 11, 2010

City of San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro P.O. Box 839966 San Antonio, TX 78283

RE: Centex Homes, Inc. - Rivermist Subdivision

Dear Mayor Castro:

I have had the opportunity to visit the Rivermist community. The incident of the wall collapse happened in January. Yet the citizens are still in limbo as to their status.

It is a slap in the face to the residents who are displaced to see new homes being constructed in the very neighborhood from which they are displaced. The City has had many meetings. Yet, the citizens whose lives have been totally disrupted have not received definitive feedback, nor have they been invited to observe, much less participate in, your process.

There are two steps that could be taken that would help alleviate the anxiety and anger of this community:

- 1. Stop the building and the issuing of permits until this matter is thoroughly investigated.
- 2. Have more transparency in the city's dealings and discussions with the developer.

As elected officials, we have to establish, and enforce, regulations to the entent necessary to protect the citizenry. Unfortunately, the city has not been as strict historically, with the regulation of developers as many San Antonio residents would like.

I would be remiss if I did not voice another concern. Many of our military families who have purchased homes in this area are now in the process of being deployed and/or transferred. They do not have the time to wait indefinitely until repairs are made. They will end up deploying or transferring with a mortgage debt and be in financial crisis because their homes are unmarketable as circumstances currently stand. As military city

USA, have we given any thought to the dramatic devaluation this ongoing saga has caused their homes to undergo? This incident, and the indecision which has followed, will irreparable damage their ability to sell their homes.

Coincidentally, I have been concerned with the construction practices at Rivermist going back to 2007. At the request of several constituents, I had asked the San Antonio Water System, the City of San Antonio, and other governmental entities in 2007 about the quality of the fill material being used at the site and the potential problems caused by the outside fill material being used to develop the site. With the conclusion by Terracon that the retaining wall collapse was caused by soil movement above and below the wall, it appears to be very likely that our concerns were well-founded.

Sincerely,

David McQuade Leibowitz

ce: Councilwoman Cisneros, District 1

cc: Councilwoman Taylor, District 2

cc: Councilwoman Ramos, District 3

cc: Councilman Cortez, District 4

cc: Councilman Medina, District 5

cc: Councilman Lopez, District 6

cc: Councilman Rodriguez, District 7

cc: Councilman Williams, District 8 cc: Councilwoman Chan, District 9

cc: Councilman Clamp, District 10

cc: City Manager Sheryl L. Sculley