



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**  
**Planning & Development Services Department**  
Neighborhood Planning & Urban Design  
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**NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
***POLICY STATEMENT***  
***January 1998, Updated May 2001***

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Organizational Principles

The Planning and Development Services Department supports some basic organizational principles related to successful neighborhood associations including:

- ◆ non-overlapping boundaries,
- ◆ equitable geographic representation and equal participation,
- ◆ membership that allows businesses, property owners, schools and residents to participate,
- ◆ an organization consisting of officers representing all citizens in the neighborhood, and
- ◆ an organization that is open and includes minority opinions.

Evidence of nonconformance to the organizational principles may result in appropriate action being taken by the Planning Director. This action could include removal from the listing of neighborhood associations registered with the City of San Antonio.

Neighborhood Association Boundaries and Geographic Size

The Planning and Development Services Department encourages all neighborhood associations to select well-defined boundaries that include an area of appropriate geographic size. Generally, neighborhood association boundaries should include about **one square mile**. Populations may range from about **2,500 to 5,000 people**, approximately the population needed to serve an elementary school. Neighborhood association boundaries generally are based on major arterials, natural barriers and other environmental features.

The Planning and Development Services Department will consider appropriate geographic size and boundaries when determining whether to register a neighborhood association. Boundary or geographic size issues may result in the Planning and Development Services Department denying listing as a registered neighborhood association to a particular group.

Membership

The Planning and Development Services Department encourages neighborhood associations' membership to include renters, homeowners from all sections of the neighborhood, property owners, large and small businesses, churches and community groups. The objective of diverse membership is to help build partnerships and a self-reliant organization.

Master Plan Consistency

The City of San Antonio Master Plan includes several statements related to neighborhoods including Goal One: Preserve, protect and enhance the integrity, economic viability and livability of San Antonio's neighborhoods. Policy 1g under this goal calls for encouraging the establishment of neighborhood associations, recognizing their importance in achieving the goals set for neighborhood development.

Benefits of Registered Neighborhood Associations

- ◆ Provides the contact information needed for Zoning Case Managers to send a notice about a pending zoning case to any registered neighborhood association whose boundaries fall within 200 feet of a zoning case.
- ◆ Helps guide and unify your community efforts to improve your neighborhood.
- ◆ Facilitates participation with the Police Department's SAFFE/COP programs.
- ◆ Helps develop working relationships with the City departments and the City Council.
- ◆ Ensures that your group is organized and representative of the neighborhood.
- ◆ Improves communication with other public agencies, the private sector and nonprofits.