

Draft Resolution in Support of a Citywide Boycott of Wal-Mart – 2.17.07. Board
Sponsors: Susan Moffatt, Lydia Ortiz, and Brigid Shea

WHEREAS, In November 2006, Wal-Mart and Lincoln Property Company announced plans to build the largest big box store in Travis County, a 225,085 square-foot, 24-hour supercenter at Northcross Mall; and

WHEREAS, The proposed site plan was administratively approved by city staff without any public hearings and without full notification to affected neighborhoods, local businesses, or other concerned parties; and

WHEREAS, The proposed supercenter will bring numerous negative impacts to the surrounding area including increasing congestion, threatening hundreds of the area's small and local businesses; and undermining the character of the nearby neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Over 3600 residents have signed a petition against the proposed project, and a recent survey showed 88 percent of respondents opposed a Supercenter in this location; and

WHEREAS, *Responsible Growth for Northcross* and other neighborhood organizations have expressed a desire for an alternative redevelopment plan that is profitable, community-oriented and enhances the long-term vitality and economic well-being of the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, Wal-Mart and Lincoln Property has failed to demonstrate the most basic tenets of good corporate citizenship by continuing to move forward with the current project despite an agreement to suspend activity for 60 days and refusing to negotiate in good faith despite widespread community opposition; and

WHEREAS, Wal-Mart and Lincoln Property Company must be held responsible to their obligations to listen to reasonable requests of citizens for the public good and that, if refused or ignored, the citizens have the right and responsibility to take action when the best interests of the community are disregarded; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Liveable City joins with the neighbors of *Responsible Growth for Northcross* and other Austinites in calling for a citywide boycott of Wal-Mart stores, including Sam's Warehouses, until the proposed 24-hour Supercenter is removed from the redevelopment plan for Northcross Mall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Liveable City calls on Lincoln Property to initiate a new open public process that includes area residents and business owners to develop a positive alternative plan for Northcross that meets the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods and is profitable for Lincoln Properties.