



A Member Organization of The Neartown Association

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## Organization Summary

### History and Boundaries

Vermont Commons Civic Association (VCCA), founded in 1992, is a 501(c)3 organization that represents homeowners in the area of Houston bounded by Driscoll to Huldy Streets (east-west) and Peden to five lots north of Westheimer (north-south). VCCA is a member organization of the Neartown Association and an active participant in HPD's PIP Program. Annual membership of \$15 supports VCCA's meeting activities and the bulk mailing and printing costs of a newsletter which is mailed monthly to members. Officers are elected to one-year terms each November and begin serving their posts the following January.

### Mission

From its inception, VCCA's mission was three-fold:

1. To protect and maintain the integrity of our neighborhood.
2. To meet the people who live around us and welcome them with neighborly trust.
3. To develop and put into place deed restrictions which provide parameters for new homes to enhance our area and protect the neighborhood from commercial encroachment.

## **Meetings**

VCCA meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month except for July, August and December at the West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Social activities are held during non-meeting months to encourage neighborly exchange.

VCCA's meetings provide a forum for addressing neighborhood issues and also enable projects which benefit the community.

Past speakers have included Harris County Appraisal District tax payer liaison officer Roland Altinger, City of Houston forester Victor Cordova, home remodeling expert Joe Hvlaveck and Houston Chronicle gardening writer Brenda Buest Smith.

## **Projects**

In addition to the creation and passage of deed restrictions, past projects have included a ReLeaf Program -- which facilitated the donation and planting of numerous trees in the neighborhood -- and active participation in the City's recent revision of the Chapter 42 development ordinance. Annual events include a garage sale fund-raiser each April, National Night Out activities each August and a Holiday Spirit lighting contest each December.

## **Deed Restrictions**

VCCA's deed restrictions were passed in February, 1996 and became effective in February, 1997. Redevelopment is constant and on-going in the VCCA area, and the association has adopted a two-part process to actively enforce its restrictions.

When VCCA is aware that a property is to be redeveloped, the developers and/or realtors involved are notified in writing that the property on which they are working may be restricted. If the property is restricted and violations become apparent, VCCA requests enforcement assistance from the City Attorney's office.