

[THEME MUSIC]

DAN DE LEON: Hi. I'm Dan de Leon.

SUZANNE And I'm Suzanne Anderson. And welcome to *TV Montrose*.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: In tonight's show, we are going to take you to the Neartown Civic Association's November meeting.

SUZANNE We're also going to show you a video that *TV Montrose* produced for the Neartown Association that will be shown

ANDERSON: to city council.

DAN DE LEON: And we're going to take you to the first year anniversary party at Rich's for Fuel.

SUZANNE We'll be showing you some clip from the soon to be released movie *Gods and Monsters*.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: And if you live in the Montrose area, the video *Reasonable and Responsible* is a must see video so that you can understand the chapter 42 redevelopment plan about to be voted on in city council.

SUZANNE Reasonable and responsible is produced by *TV Montrose* and cooperation with the Neartown Association to

ANDERSON: express their concerns about Chapter 42 to city council.

DAN DE LEON: So let's see the video that may impact on how city council votes.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: Life in Houston's inner city is changing by the minute. In the past five years, thousands of interloop Houston properties have been transformed. It's easy to see the benefits. Property values and tax revenues are increasing dramatically. But what are the consequences as we double, triple, and quadruple population density?

The Chapter 42 Development Ordinance, now before Houston City Council, will establish guidelines for the dense redevelopment of land in Houston's urban core. That's the neighborhoods inside loop 610. This is an extremely critical document for Houston's future. It will have an irreversible impact on the quality of our lives. We ask you to consider what's reasonable and what's responsible.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MARY ELLEN The Neartown Association is an umbrella group of 21 civic associations. We represent over 35,000 households.

WHITWORTH: We have studied Chapter 42 and its effect on our neighborhood for over a year. And we feel in its present form, it does not address many critical issues. It does not limit density enough to protect the quality of life and the character of our neighborhoods.

It does not provide enough open space. It does not provide sufficient building set backs. It does not protect our urban forest. And it does not address the shortage of on street parking that will occur. We urge you to please amend this ordinance to address these critical needs.

GARY COOVER: Let's consider how much density is reasonable and responsible. The average single family home in our neighborhood sits on a 50 by 100 foot lot. The ordinance draft will allow some lots of this size to be subdivided into pieces as small as 1,400 square feet. This means that whole lots could actually be smaller than the houses being replaced. These lots are allowed to be as narrow as 20 feet.

On corner lots, as many as four townhouses could be squeezed in. They would need four times the amount of water and sewer now used by one house and increase the traffic fourfold. Who is going to pay for these improvements?

The Chapter 42 draft also defines a duplex as single family residential. Somebody's math is seriously off here. We must have reasonable and responsible density. No more than two houses on interior lots and no more than three houses on corner lots.

PATRICK LYN: There's also the question of off street parking. Dense redevelopment has already created a parking nightmare on many inner city streets. On this street, townhouse driveways have wiped out much of on street parking, yet the increased density means that even more people will actually need it. And pity this poor homeowner, whose front curbside is quickly becoming the parking lot for his entire block. Townhouse driveways must be designed to accommodate more on street parking.

PAT HAMMOND: I think we need to take a serious look at building setback lines. As the ordinance is written currently, owners of bungalows have no defense against builders who come in and change the setback lines surrounding our homes with towering structures. Would you want to own the last bungalow left on this block? How much incentive would you have to maintain your property when it has no value except as a tear down? This creates very unstable neighborhoods.

Chapter 42 must spell out a process for setting prevailing building setback lines. We need a public hearing process that allows a simple majority of property owners to provide evidence of support with a 20-year life designations could also allow neighborhoods to change in the future.

SAM LUSK: And what about trees? At the present rate, we're probably losing a tree a day. They're either being cut down, or the bulldozers are crushing their roots and then they're being covered with concrete. These trees will die and then two, three, five years, leaving the New homeowner with another problem.

By the time you see this, these trees will probably be gone. We're losing an urban forest that provides more than pleasant surrounding. Large trees add value to property, create significant energy savings, and provide critically needed habitat for the birds.

Along with the tree and shrub ordinance, Chapter 42 must protect older urban trees. Many other cities require developers to file photographs and descriptions of the existing trees with their plight and permit applications. They also require the developer to file bond to protect the tree. And if the tree dies within three to five years, they pay for it.

DICK CATE: One of the aspects of this draft of Chapter 42 that concerns me the most is its open space provisions. It's important to know that open space and green space are not the same thing. As a matter of fact, the green space isn't mentioned anywhere in this draft ordinance that I could find. With this draft of Chapter 42, open space could be a paved area as small as 20 feet by 12 feet.

AYSHE FAHIM: Chapter 42 does not allow for enough open space. For example, it only allows for 20 by 12 space, and that can be covered in concrete, which would be about half the size of where we're at right now. Imagine trying to tell my child to go out there and play. And I'm aware of quite a few moms that have small children, my daughter's age, that all need to congregate to a park or somebody else's yard because of the new development.

DICK CATE: Do we really want our children to live in a concrete jungle? And that's exactly what we could have if the entire urban area is developed in accordance with this draft of Chapter 42.

KEVIN SHANLEY: To create meaningful connected green space and open space for the city, we need to create just as we created, a major thoroughfare plan to deal with the city's traffic needs, an open space plan that would have the same force of law as the major third floor plan has.

DICK CATE: No dense urban law should greatly increase tax revenue. It seems to me that a portion of this tax revenue could be used to acquire or replace much of this lost open space.

KEVIN SHANLEY: Houston gets hit regularly with major storms. We need to create a watershed-based drainage plan for our neighborhoods that combines hydrology, open space, green space, habitat, and recreation

FRANK HOOD: The Chapter 42 draft is 88 pages long. I can certainly understand why you might not want to read through every page of it. But parts of it provide carte blanche for overly dense development. Parts of it are vague. And parts of it are downright dangerous for Houston.

The Neartown Association's recommendations are spelled out in packets given to each of you. They weigh the needs and rights of everyone impacted by this ordinance. These recommendations are endorsed by dozens of neighborhood organizations.

If you care about the future of Houston and the citizens whom you serve, you'll ask some tough questions about this draft of the Section 42 ordinance. What's reasonable? What's responsible? And what's best for the future of this city?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SUZANNE ANDERSON: That was a well-done educational video, covering a very complicated issue.

DAN DE LEON: Sure was, Suzanne. But for more on this story, let's go now to the November meeting of the Neartown Association.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

STEVE BAKER: Hi. We're at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church tonight for the November meeting of the Neartown Civic Association. Tonight's meeting was well attended by approximately 150 people here to primarily discuss the Chapter 42 Redevelopment Plan, which is before Houston City Council. What did you think was accomplished at tonight's meeting?

GARY COOVER: Well, I think it was very important to have two of the council members here, expressing their support and giving, I think, the people here an idea that there it is a very political process.

STEVE BAKER: And Gail?

GAIL RAMSEY: I think we gave a number of people some firsthand facts. And I think we got to hear from them as well. There are some issues here that have to do with livability of this city. And maybe this is kind of the beginning of the communities taking on their own voices instead of this being a developer-run town.

MARY ELLEN WHITWORTH: It was a great night. It's one of the largest turnouts we've had in any of our meetings. And it shows that people are really concerned about what's happening in their neighborhood.

And Chapter 42 Ordinance is something that's going to impact them directly. And they came out tonight to learn what they could do. And I'm really pleased we had such a great meeting.

GAIL RAMSEY: If we can get density of 24 units an acre, and do something about the parking, and save some trees, we're going to feel this was worth the effort.

STEVE BAKER: I guess the bottom line is, had you not done anything and had you not tried? Then what you would have eventually end up with would probably been more one sided, wouldn't it?

GAIL RAMSEY: Absolutely. No question about it. Wouldn't you agree?

GARY COOVER: We'd have a concrete jungle. And I'd probably have a for sale sign in my front yard.

STEVE BAKER: What would you recommend to people watching out there that live in the area? What can they do about the situation at this point?

GAIL RAMSEY: You need to write or fax your council member and let him or her know what your concerns are, that you want 24 density and you want to be able to park on your street.

STEVE BAKER: Another topic that was heavily discussed tonight was the Westheimer Street Festival. Number of residents in the neighborhood are against the Westheimer Street Festival as it currently is held too much traffic, too much loitering. A lot of residents report obscene things happening in their yards.

JAMES SOBOTA: It's been a pretty big concern about some of the problems that has occurred the last few years at the street festival. We are very concerned about the safety, of course, the patrons that attend the festival and, of course, the neighbors, very, very concerned. So I think with every street festival, we get the impact from the neighbors, the citizens of the Montrose area. And we like to work with them and ironed out these issues.

STEVE BAKER: Do you have the same kind of problems with, say, the gay pride parade, or is that a whole different situation?

JAMES SOBOTA: Well, I don't think it's really as big as a problem, because with the Westheimer Street Festival, of course, you have alcohol that served. And it's more of all-day two-day affair. And being involved with a gay pride parade, really, no problems at all.

STEVE BAKER: Another topic discussed tonight was a video, which *TV Montrose* produced for the Neartown Civic Association for Houston City Council, which addresses the issues in Chapter 42. *TV Montrose* is honored tonight with an Atta Boy Certificate from the Neartown Civic Association for our work on the project. Something that *TV Montrose* is very proud to have done.

Also, in attendance tonight's meeting were council members Parker and Robinson, who addressed the issues surrounding Chapter 42, taking questions from the audience. They did a great job of trying to relate to the audience what is a very complicated proposal. Reporting from Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, this is Steve Baker for *TV Montrose*.

SUZANNE As of the time of this taping, city council is scheduled to vote on Chapter 42 on December the 7th.
ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: It'll really be interesting to see how this hot issue plays out.

SUZANNE It will. Let's take a short commercial break. And when we get back, we'll join Jason at Rich's for the Fuel
ANDERSON: anniversary party.

LEE BROWN: I'm mayor Lee Brown. And you're watching *TV Montrose*.

[THEME MUSIC]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: The *Texas Triangle* is a free weekly newspaper, reaching over 60,000 readers every week. Available every Thursday throughout Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas, and 20 other Texas cities. The *Triangle* offers the best in news, features, and entertainment.

A six-time award winner, it's the only gay newspaper to receive an outstanding journalism award from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association. The Houston Press writes, "For gay and lesbian news, by far the best is the *Texas Triangle*." So pick up the *Triangle* every week. Quality makes a difference.

WOMAN: Baba Yega, a Montrose tradition. Two lush patios and a spectacular waterfall make dining at Baba Yega a peaceful experience. The only thing better than the atmosphere is the food. With a wide variety of fine entrees, there's something for everyone's taste, including a veggie menu.

The Jasmine room is perfect for business or social meetings. Also, visit the Wild Earth Herb Shop next door. Excellent food, superb staff, tranquil surroundings, and moderate prices make Baba Yega the complete dining experience.

BETTY Hello. My name is Betty DeGeneres. And my kid is the greatest. You know her. She's Ellen. And she's gay.
DEGENERES:

For too long, gay Americans have suffered discrimination. As long as our sons and daughters are excluded from the basic protection of law, we must share that burden as a family. So Let's not waste one child. And let them all reach for the stars.

ALL: We're Outrage. And you're watching TV Montrose.

[CHEERING]

[THEME MUSIC]

DAN DE LEON: Welcome back.

SUZANNE Dan, are you ready for some fun and some really cutting-edge music.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: Well, you have to be talking about Rich's and Friday Night Fuel.

SUZANNE That's true and for some high energy. Let's go to Jason.

ANDERSON:

[THEME MUSIC]

(SINGING) Happy birthday, dear Fuel. Happy birthday to you.

[CROWD CHEERING]

JASON VINCIK: Hey, this is Jason. We are here at Fuel's one year anniversary party at Rich's. Now if you've never been to Fuel before, let me tell you what. It's one hot event. It happens every Friday, right here at Rich's on San Jacinto, 18 and up, hot drink specials, hot men, gorgeous women. And I tell you what, right now, I'm here with the hostess of the whole party, M Pussycat. M Pussycat, tell me, what brings this whole show on on Fridays?

M PUSSYCAT: All of you guys. All of you guys make it happen. Everyone out tonight. Everyone here on the show. It's just y'all that make it happen.

JASON VINCIK: Yeah. So where did this concept come from?

M PUSSYCAT: We just wanted to bring something that was very diverse, you know, that everyone could feel welcome at, that everyone could feel that there was no prejudice or just peace, and love, and unity, and respect, and really, that we really meant it.

JASON VINCIK: All right. So for everybody out there who's never been to Fuel, this is a high energy night. So we've got some really cool music going on here. What kind of DJs come out on Friday nights?

M PUSSYCAT: Actually, we have the honor of Atomic Music, David Picone, also known as DJ Fusion, and Chris Sill. Chris Sill also was Outsmart. And he, actually, was one of the creators of Hedonism in San Diego. So he's fabulous. He's fabulous. We love him a lot.

[CLUB MUSIC]

JASON VINCIK: Jerry, I hear you guys are having something pretty hot happening on New Year's Eve. What's going on here?

JERRY RAMSEY: What? On New Year's Eve, we're doing the return of Studio 54. You thought Labor Day weekend was fabulous, wait till you see New Year's Eve this year. It's going to be awesome. We have a Viola Wills. It's going to be a great party. Velvet rope to the front door. It's just going to be incredible.

JASON VINCIK: Cool. So it's like a club 54 for resurrection?

JERRY RAMSEY: Yes, the return of Studio 54. It's going to be awesome.

JASON VINCIC: Awesome. Is there anything lined up for that evening come along? Any special events or anything going on?

JERRY RAMSEY: Oh, that is going to be a surprise for you guys. So the best part, it's going to be Viola Wills singing her song *You Can Read My Mind*, her current hit.

JASON VINCIC: Oh, that's really pretty cool.

[CLUB MUSIC]

What do you think about the music here on Friday night?

WOMAN: I love it. Absolutely, love it.

JASON VINCIC: Do you like the music? And you know what, DJs here on Friday nights, don't you?

WOMAN: It doesn't matter. I love them all.

JASON VINCIC: Really cool I was like DJ Fusion from 98.5.

WOMAN: OK.

JASON VINCIC: She had no idea.

WOMAN: No, I have no idea. I don't care. [INAUDIBLE]

JASON VINCIC: But all your friends are here and you love the music.

WOMAN: All my friends are here.

JASON VINCIC: Well, what brings you here on Friday night?

MAN: The cool music and the atmosphere.

JASON VINCIC: And the atmosphere

MAN: The atmosphere

JASON VINCIC: Hey, guys. The men are hot. The women are absolutely gorgeous. The music is high energy. If you've never been to Fuel before, you've got to come out here on Friday night and check it out. For *TV Montrose*, I'm Jason Vincik.

DAN DE LEON: That looked like a lot of fun.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: It really did, Dan. You know something tells me that Jason could make fun out of just about any event or situation.

DAN DE LEON: Let's take our second short commercial break.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: And when we get back, we're going to the movies.

DAN DE LEON: Yeah.

MARIA TODD: Hi. I'm Maria Todd from 104 KRBE. And you're watching *TV Montrose*. Muah.

[THEME MUSIC]

MAN: Lobo Bookshop and Cafe, Houston's only exclusively gay and lesbian bookstore, serving the gay and lesbian community for 25 years. Lobo carries a full spectrum of fiction and non-fiction books, including the largest selection of used books in Houston and also, the largest selection of theatrical movies and other videos of interest to gays and lesbians. Lobo offers a wide selection of cards for any occasion and plenty of merchandise for select gifts for others or yourself.

And there's nothing better than a cup of fresh brewed coffee at the Lobo cafe. Select from 40 flavors and a menu of specialty coffees. The Lobo Cafe also carries fresh made sandwiches and a wide assortment of desserts, including cheesecakes and cookies. For videos, magazines, and merchandise exclusively of interest to the gay and lesbian community, there is no other place like Lobo Bookshop and Cafe

SUZANNE
ANDERSON: Don't even think about buying or selling the home without hiring a professional. A home is the biggest financial investment that you will ever make. And I am always amazed at how casually people select a realtor. They'll call the name of a sign or take the name of a friend of a friend.

To be a good realtor, you have to be a good listener. And I listen to my clients and I customize my services to fit your needs. We listen, present creative solutions, and help you make decisions in buying or selling a home.

GIRL: Some of them will be three times more likely to commit suicide than their friends. There's also a greater chance that someday some of them will be assaulted, beaten, threatened, harassed, or even murdered just because they may be lesbian or gay. But look at them, they deserve it, don't they? A message brought to you by the Parents, Families, and Friends Lesbians and Gays.

DAYNA STEELE: I'm Dayna Steele from 97 Talk. And you are watching *TV Montrose*.

[THEME MUSIC]

SUZANNE Welcome back.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: Now, it's time to go to the movies.

SUZANNE And tonight's movie is *Gods and Monsters*.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: In 1957, James Whale, the director of the early Frankenstein movies, was found dead in his swimming pool under mysterious circumstances.

SUZANNE And *Gods and Monsters* is a story about the interactions of Whale, an elderly homosexual, and a straight ex-marine that works on Whale's estate.

DAN DE LEON: Hmm. Let's roll it.

[THEME MUSIC]

[VIDEO PLAYBACK]

- So you ever been married, Mr. Whale?

- No. Well, not in the legal sense.

- Wha-- what other sense is there?

- Well, one can live as husband and wife without getting the law involved.

- So then you did have a wife?

- Or a husband, depending on which of us asked. My friend, David, lived here for many years. Does that surprise you?

- No. You're a homosexual.

- If I'm a serious clinical man.

- I'm not.

- I never thought you were.

- You don't even think of me that way, do you?

- And what way would that be?

- Well, the way that I look at women.

- Don't be ridiculous. I know a real man like you would break my neck if I so much as lay a finger on you, as I do in my time. (LAUGHS) So we understand each other.

- Right.

- Live and let live.

[END PLAYBACK]

SUZANNE TV Montrose has 100 passes to give out for Wednesday, December 16's screening of *Gods and Monsters*.
ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: To get your ticket, be at JR's next Monday at 8:00 PM.

SUZANNE The first 100 people get free passes.
ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: All right. So any leftover tickets can be obtained from TV Montrose by calling us on Tuesday, December 15.

SUZANNE If you haven't joined us at JR's on Monday night, this is just another reason to go next Monday.
ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: It's time to take a look at the community calendar.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: So here's what's happening next week. Hi. I'm Jimmy Carper. And I produce *After Hours*.

BIG ROY: And I'm Big Roy.

MICHELE MYERS: And I'm Michele Myers.

BIG ROY: And we do the news segment on *After Hours, Queer Radio with Attitude*.

MICHELE MYERS: Heard every Saturday night, from midnight to 3:00 AM.

BIG ROY: On KPFT 90.1 FM, the sound of Texas.

JIMMY CARPER: Now stand by for the community calendar.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DAN DE LEON: How about another peek at *Gods and Monsters*.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Oh, yeah. I always love going to the movies.

[VIDEO PLAYBACK]

- Oh, what a pesky friend up till now. Is that Boris? A little chum appears to be arranging a reunion. Boris.
- Elsa.
- Darling.
- Elsa and James. James, how good to see you.
- I didn't know you were here. These public revels are hardly up your alley.
- Actually, I'm here for the sake of Milan, my great grand niece.
- Coo-chi-coo. And what do you make of our royal visitant.
- Perfectly charming, a real lady.
- What did you expect to half seeing tennis shoes?
- Hey, you, with the camera, we've got a historical moment here. Come, get a picture of it. This is Mr. James Whale who made *Frankenstein* and *Bride of Frankenstein*. And this, forget the baby a second, is the monster and his bride.
- Oh, Karloff, right?
- And you just love being famous.

[END PLAYBACK]

DAN DE LEON: Well, it's time to close another show.

SUZANNE So until next week. I'm Suzanne Anderson.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: And I'm Dan de Leon. Good night.

[THEME MUSIC]

STEVE BAKER: We're at the Bering Memorial Methodist Church. No, it's Bering United Memorial Methodist Church. From Bering United Memorial Methodist Church-- no, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. OK.

SUZANNE We're going to Feature some clips from the soon to be released-- blo, blo. I don't know what happened. I just fell
ANDERSON: apart.

DAN DE LEON: Let's see the video now on how yeah, ha, city council may vote. Then the video-- one more time.

JASON VINCIC: Free weaver. We're here at the fir-- do this all over again.

DAN DE LEON: That looked like a lot of fun.

SUZANNE Oh, Dan, Jason could make fun out of anything.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: That looked like a lot of fun.

SUZANNE It did, and you know, Dan, Jason could make fun-- just sec. I got to have to read this.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: That looked like a lot of fun.

SUZANNE It did, Dan. Something tells me that Jason could make fun about-- ugh. Why?

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: That looked like a lot of fun.

SUZANNE It did, Ja-- Dan. Jan. It's going to happen.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: OK, hit her again, hit her.

STEVE BAKER: Video which *TV Montrose* produced, which is also being played for city council, called *Reasonable and Responsible*. The video which *TV Montrose* produced for the Neartown Civic Association, titles Responsible and Reasonable-- Reasonable and Responsible.

JASON VINCIC: Never turn it off. We always turn it on. Turn on the *TV Montrose*.

[THEME MUSIC]