

From: [lovelane](#)
To: [Sally Helm](#); [Edward Morrow](#)
Subject: No Hotels in Thomas Square
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:28:12 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Please vote to block hotel development in the Thomas Square/Starland district and extend the hotel development overlay through to Victory Drive. Please vote against allowing small hotels in the neighborhood.

I am a resident of the Thomas Square neighborhood.

It is important to restrict hotel development because:

- The Thomas Square neighborhood lacks the infrastructure to support an influx of visitors. The parking situation is desperate, trash is overflowing, crosswalks and stormwater drainage are needed. City services have struggled to keep up with the neighborhood's growth. If the City cannot effectively take on these issues, we ask that big development be put on hold until the City catches up. Or, that developers be required to provide some of these services when their permits are issued.
- Restrictions are important to preserve the neighborhood's unique character. Thomas Square is a vibrant and artistic residential neighborhood, home to multi-generational families, students, great dining, and nightlife. Putting an emphasis on tourism risks transforming the neighborhood into a caricature of itself, much like historic downtown. Building hotels squeezes out the affordable housing options the neighborhood so desperately needs and threatens its unique character.
- Demand for hotel rooms is falling, while 1200 new hotel rooms are coming online across 12 construction projects. Ongoing economic uncertainty, a squeeze on household budgets, and a drop in international visitors is weighing on Savannah's tourism industry. An oversupply problem, coupled with economic uncertainty, may put financial pressure on hotel operators. This is not the moment for more hotels.
- And finally, and most importantly, voting to allow even small hotels in the neighborhood ignores the concerns of the community. Beginning in 2023, the City began extensive stakeholder engagement with all of the affected neighborhoods. Overwhelmingly, residents voted against new hotel development. The MPC's mission is to provide an accessible planning process and recommendations for a greater quality of life for all. We are counting on the MPC to meet that mission.

Therefore, I urge you to vote to extend the boundaries of the Hotel Development Overlay and prohibit new hotels in the district.

Thank you,
Lane Shorkey
The Rainbow House
25 E 40th St
Resident & Business Owner

Adventure Awaits!
(please excuse typos)