

City of Austin Board of Adjustment Re: 2100 East 14<sup>th</sup>/Case C15-2014-0108

7/30/2014

Honorable Board Members:

Newcastle Homes is a locally owned and operated family business that takes tremendous pride in being part of one the true gems of Austin: the East Side. We are especially proud of the "win-win" solution that the City of Austin Historic Preservation Office, Chestnut community, and our business developed for the property at 2100 East 14th.

The Chestnut community identified this property as a 'medium priority' in its historic survey in 2002. Austin Hostoric Preservation Officer, Steve Sadowsky, confirmed that the structure itself has features that contribute to the historic fabric of the neighborhood and that the original inhabitant was noteworthy. Newcastle Homes bought the property less than a year ago and even though it is extremely dilapidated and not zoned historically, nor in a historically designated area, reached out to the City and the Chestnut NPCT on how this property could be rejuvenated in a way that works for the local community, the City's historic preservation efforts, and our family business. After numerous meetings with the president of CANA (Chestnut Addition Neighborhood Association), the Chestnut NPCT, and CANA, as well as with Mr. Sadowsky, an exemplary solution that balances each stakeholder's needs was agreed upon. That solution requires a variance, which we respectfully request you grant.

Simply demolishing the house would erase a part of history and further contribute to the rapid loss of the historic fabric of East Austin. Formally designating the house historic would use up precious funds that could be used elsewhere. Merely recreating the house as it was originally, since it is so outdated and in such a dilapidated state, would not be economically feasible. Therefore, we joined forces to prioritize each parties' needs to find common ground. All parties deserve tremendous credit for respecting one another's needs and developing a compromise that we hope can cited as an example of how the City, local communities and developers can work together!

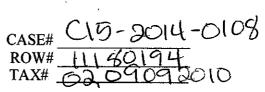
The plan calls for Newcastle Homes, under the guidance of HA Architecture, a local firm expert at historical preservation, to maintain and remodel the existing structure in specific ways determined by the Historic Preservation Office and Chestnut NPCT. Its unique architectural features and street facades will remain and its scale will be preserved. We will then add a small 2-story addition to the rear as per Secretary of Interior Historic Preservation guidelines. Then, with this variance, we will build a secondary residence, which are encouraged by the Chestnut Neighborhood Plan, that is about 1500 square feet (or less). The existing structure and how it must be restored limit what can be done on this large lot, but we are confident our plan will accomplish the preservation goals of the City and Chestnut, mesh (in terms of scale and aesthetics) with the existing fabric of the neighborhood, and add to the overall community in general. Confirming this, we have strong support from Mr. Sadowsky, the Chestnut NPCT, and many local Chestnut neighbors, including several living within a block or two of the site. Thank you for considering this request—please grant this variance.

Sincerely,

lex zwarun







## CITY OF AUSTIN APPLICATION TO BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT GENERAL VARIANCE/PARKING VARIANCE

WARNING: Filing of this appeal stops all affected construction activity.

| INFORMATION COMPL                     | N MUST BE TYPED WITH ALL REQUESTED LETED.            |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| STREET ADDRESS: 2100 E                | ast 14th, Austin, TX 78702                           |
| LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sul                | bdivision –  |
| Lot(s) 1 Block                        | Outlot 34 Division B                                 |
| /WeLex Zwarun                         | on behalf of myself/ourselves as authorized agent f  |
| Austin Newcastle Homes                | affirm that on July 8 , 2014                         |
|                                       | COMPLETE REMODEL MAINTAIN                            |
| a secondary apartment, which is allow | ved in the Chestnut NP, that is not limited to 850sf |
|                                       |  |
| ı a distric                           | ct.  |
| n a distric<br>(zoning district)      | ct.  |

VARIANCE FINDINGS: I contend that my entitlement to the requested variance is based on the following findings (see page 5 of application for explanation of findings):

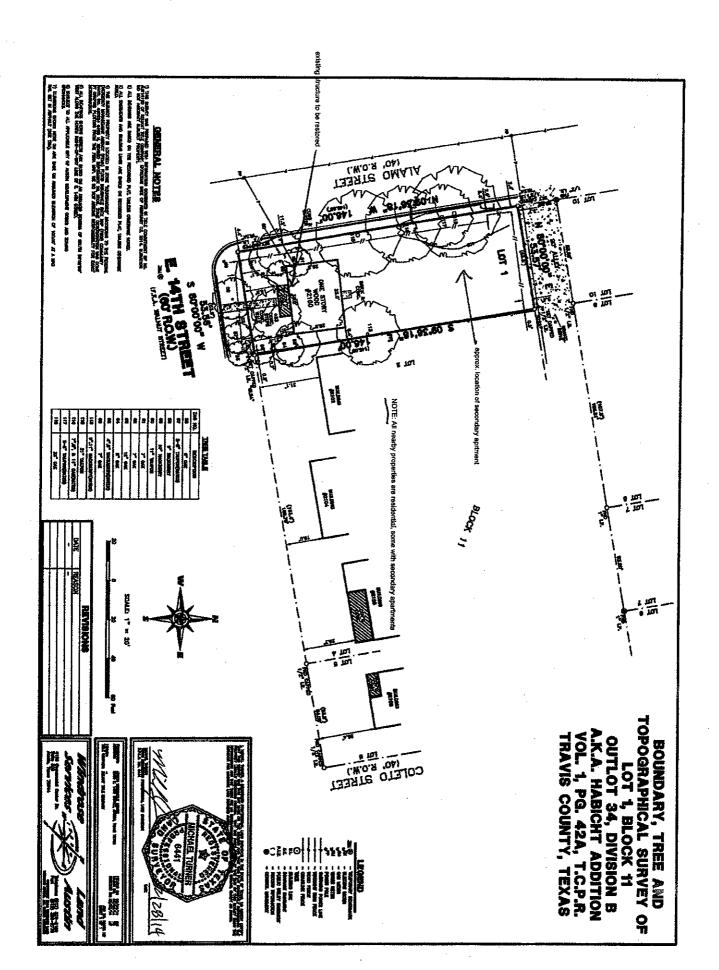
## **REASONABLE USE:**

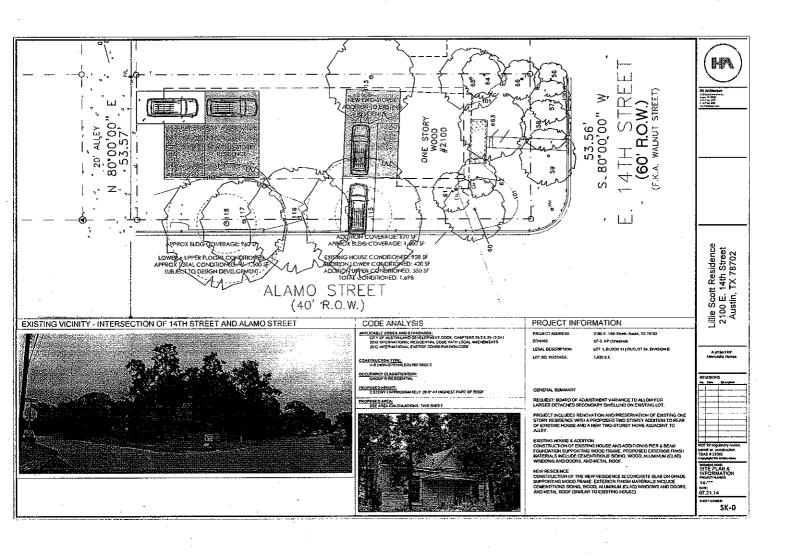
1. The zoning regulations applicable to the property do not allow for a reasonable use because:
In order to fulfill the request made by the COA Historic Preservation Officer, the Historic Landmark Commission, and the Chestnut Neighborhood Planning Contact Team to preserve the original home on this lot, we need to be able to construct a secondary apartment that is not limited to 850sf. The larger secondary apartment will subsidize the preservation of the primary structure. Secondary apartments are allowed in the Chestnut NP.

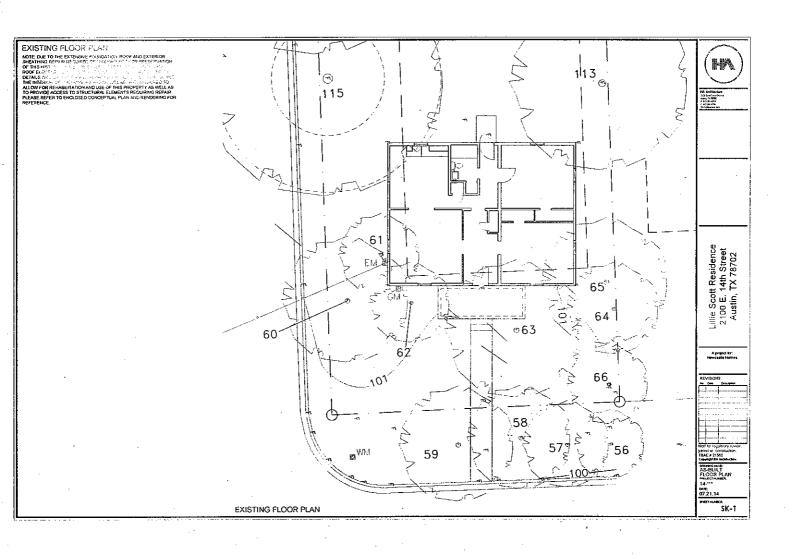
|             | HARDSHIP:  |
|-------------|--|
|             | 2. (a) The hardship for which the variance is requested is unique to the property in that:  y was purchased without being designated historic but is now being treated as such by the City, the HLC, and the Chestnut NPCT,  |
| which is un | ique to this property at this location.  |
|             | (b) The hardship is not general to the area in which the property is located because:  |
|             | Only this lot has this structure that is being deemed unique/worth saving.   |
|             |  |
|             | AREA CHARACTER:  |
|             | 3. The variance will not alter the character of the area adjacent to the property, will not impair the use of adjacent conforming property, and will not impair the purpose of the regulations of the zoning district in which the property is located because:  |
|             | Both homes will fit in with the local feel and aesthetic, still be single family residential, still comply with code, and have adequate  |
| street park | ing. The project will retain the NPCT's desired s.f. residential feel and the homes will be appropriately scaled and feature elements  |
| eemed impo  | Print by the local NPCT.   |
|             | PARKING: (Additional criteria for parking variances only.)   |
|             | Request for a parking variance requires the Board to make additional findings. The Board may grant a variance to a regulation prescribed Section 479 of Chapter 25-6 with respect to the number of off-street parking spaces or loading facilities required if it makes findings of fact that the following additional circumstances also apply: |

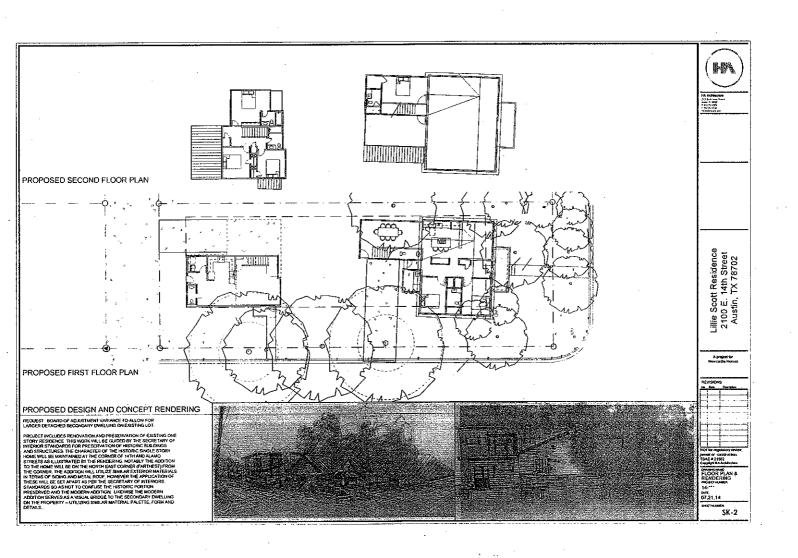
1. Neither present nor anticipated future traffic volumes generated by the use of the site or the uses of sites in the vicinity reasonable require strict or literal interpretation and enforcement of the specific regulation because:

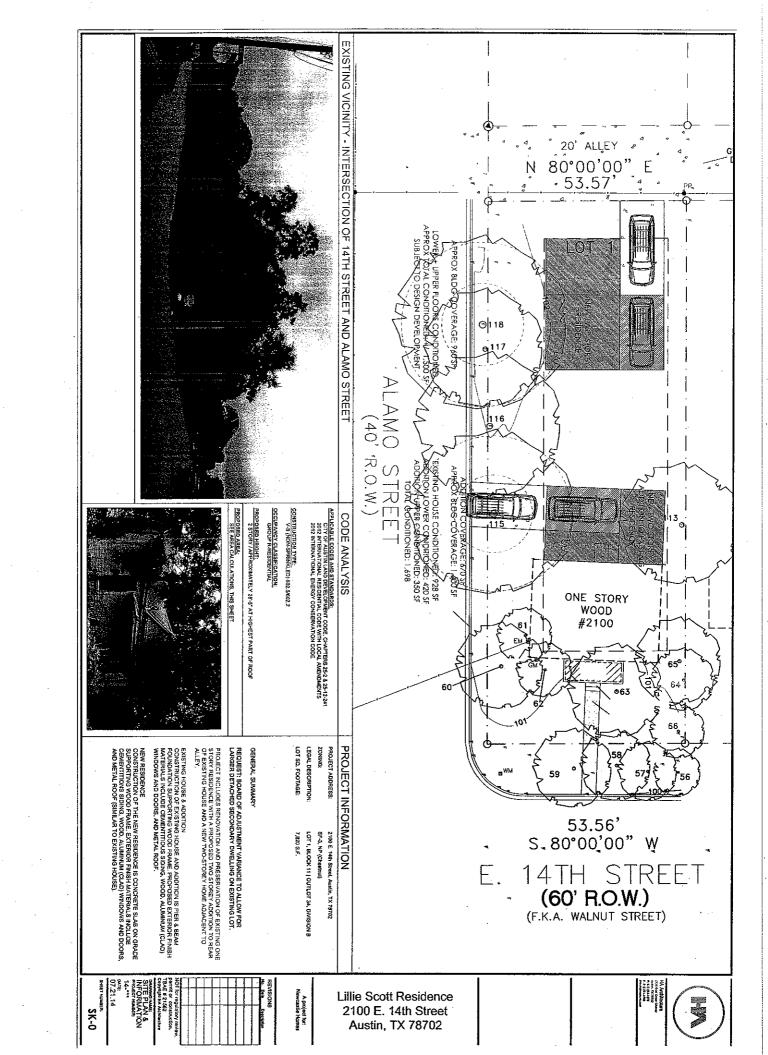
| 2,          | pub           |                      | ets in              |                       |                     |                        | esult in the par<br>iterfere with the |                         |                      |  |             |
|-------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|-------------|
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| 3.          |               |                      |                     |                       |                     |                        | reate a safety l<br>Ordinance beca    |                         | r any ot             | her condi                              | tion        |
|             |               |                      | ,                   |                       |                     |                        |                                       |                         |                      |  |             |
| 4.          |               | varian<br>site bed   |                     | run wi                | th the u            | use or us              | es to which it                        | pertains                | and sha              | ll not run                             | with        |
|             |               |                      |                     |                       |                     |                        |                                       |                         |                      |  | <del></del> |
|             |               |                      |                     |                       |                     |                        |                                       |                         |                      |  |             |
| N           | OTE:          | The privi            | Board<br>lege no    | cannot g<br>t enjoyed | rant a<br>l by oth  | variance<br>ers simila | that would prov<br>rly situated or p  | ide the a<br>otentially | pplicant<br>similarl | with a spe<br>y situated.              | ecial       |
|             |               |                      |                     |                       |                     |                        | t my statements<br>f my knowledg      |                         |                      | complete                               | ÷ .         |
| Sign        | ned _         | lox                  | zwa                 | run                   |                     |                        | _Mail Address_                        | 5108 Av                 | e G                  |  |             |
| City        | . Sta         | te & Zi              | Aus<br>O            | stin, TX 78           | 751                 |                        |                                       |                         |                      |  |             |
|             | ted _         | Lex Zw               |                     |                       |                     |                        | 512-454-4600                          | Date_                   | 7/8/14               |  |             |
| OW<br>are t | NEI<br>true a | RS CER               | RTIFIC<br>ect to tl | ATE –<br>ne best o    | I affirm<br>f my kı | that my                | statements cont<br>and belief.        | ained in                | the comp             | plete appli                            | cation      |
| Sigr        | ied _         | lex.                 | zwai                | run                   |                     |                        | _Mail Address_                        | same as                 | s above              |  |             |
| City        | , Sta         | te & Zi <sub>l</sub> | ·                   |                       |                     |                        |                                       |                         |                      |  |             |
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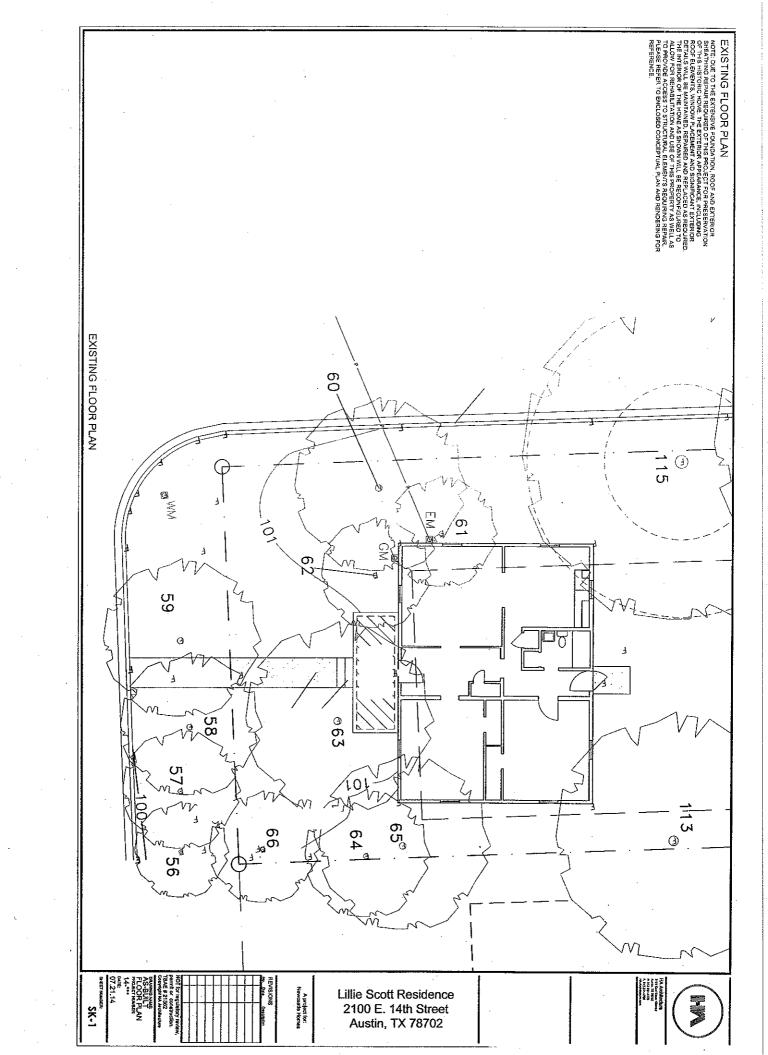


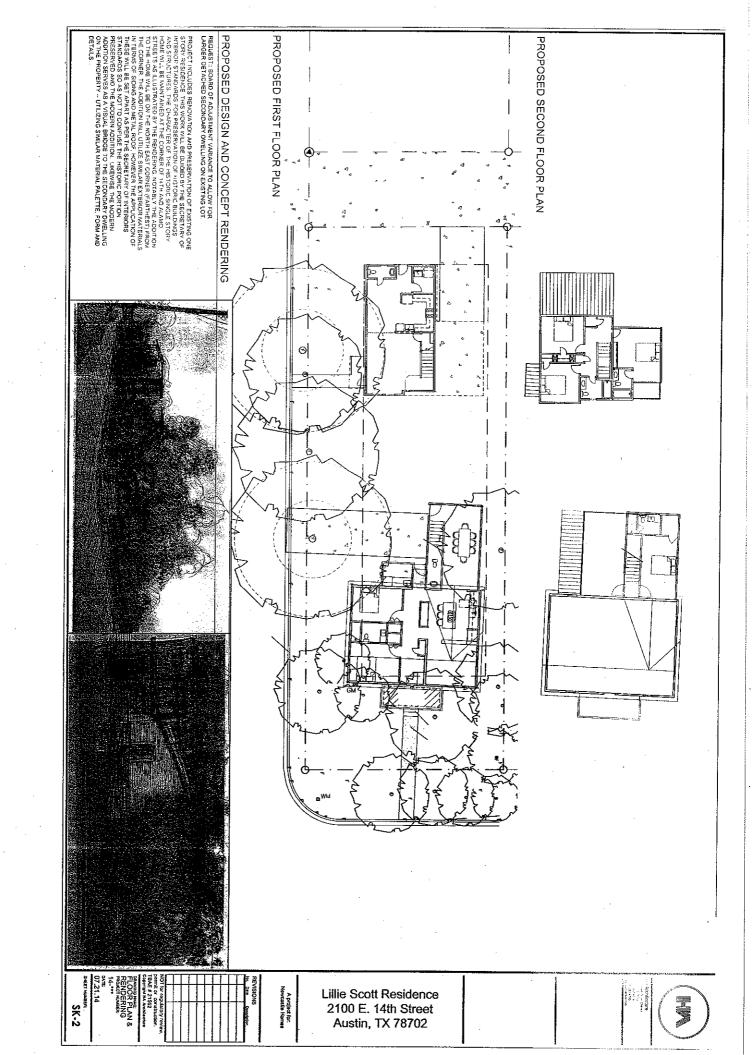
















# PRESERVE APPEARANCE OF EXTERIOR WITH REPAIRS TO FOUNDATION, EXTERIOR AND ROOF

RESERVE PERIOD SPECIFIC FRONT ELEVATION









# LOCATION OF PROPOSED ADDITION (NORTHEAST CORNER)

NOTE THE MORTHEAST CORNER OF THE EXISTING HOME WILL SERVE AS THE LOCATION FOR THE PROPOSED ADDITION. THIS ALLOWS THE HISTORIC HOME TO MAINTAIN (AND PRESERVE) THE APEARANCE FROM HISTORIC HOME TO MAINTAIN (AND PRESERVE) THE APEARANCE FROM THE STREET CORNER. THE HOT WILL BE THE CONTRACT WHICH SET THE STREET CORNERS. THE HOWEL HALLOW HE WAS THE MORTH AND THE HOME WILL BE THE CONTRACT WHICH HE WAS THE HOME WILL BE THE CONTRACT WAS THE HOME WILL BE THE CONTRACT WAS THE HOME WITH HE WAS THE HOME WAS THE WAS THE HOME WITH HE WAS THE WAS THE HOME WITH HE WAS THE HOME WAS THE WAS TH

Lillie Scott Residence 2100 E. 14th Street Austin, TX 78702





City of Austin

Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839 Historic Preservation Office Planning and Development Review Department One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767

July 28, 2014

Board of Adjustment, City of Austin P.O. Box 1088 Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Variance requested for 2100 E.14th Street; Newcastle Homes

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Newcastle Homes, the owner of the house at 2100 E. 14th Street, who is seeking a variance to build a structure behind the existing historic building at the above address. The existing structure has long ties to Austin's African American history. Newcastle Homes agreed to preserve the house and to develop the lot behind the house rather than demolish or relocate the historic house. The proposed new structure will be larger than the existing structure; Newcastle Homes therefore needs a variance to build it, and in developing the lot, they will be able to fund the restoration of the historic building.

The house at 2100 E. 14th Street was built in 1906 and has ties to one family that lasted over 50 years. John Washington, the first occupant of the house, worked for the first African-American undertaker in Austin. Family members, including Lillie Washington (later Lillie Scott, who lived here until her death in 1958), worked in occupations representative of African-American working men and women in the city. Lillie Washington Scott was a laundress, seamstress, cook, and maid. John Scott was a truck driver for a warehouse company. The family owned this house, which set them apart from a large number of the city's African-American families, who could only afford to rent — yet, they worked hard at occupations typical of their race and status within the larger community.

The house is an excellent example of vernacular turn of the century architecture, with several ornamental features, including fish scale shingling in the tympanum of the front gable over the full-width porch. The house typifies middle-class residential architecture of the period and has had very few alterations over the years. Its historic appearance is very important to the integrity of the Chestnut Neighborhood, which had a historic structure survey completed several years ago. Neighborhood leaders are currently working on a nomination for a locally-designated historic district that will include E. 14th Street. It is extremely important to maintain the historic character of the street and the streetscape in this potential historic district and to encourage any new development to be behind the historic house. Newcastle Homes' agreement to retain the existing one-story house on the street and to develop behind it will preserve both the integrity of this important house as well as the historic character of the streetscape. This is a unique situation, and conditions call for the granting of a variance to make this project a success for both the applicant and the interests of historic preservation. In all of the City's historic districts, we encourage preserving the historic streetscape to the greatest extent possible, and to place new

developments behind the historic structures. I hope that you will agree that the preservation of this house, as well as the integrity and character of the Chestnut Neighborhood's history merits the granting of a variance in this case.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if we can assist in any other way.

Sincerely,

Steve Sadowsky

Historic Preservation Officer

## Board of Adjustment:

I am the vice-chair of the Chestnut NPCT. We have a very active and vocal group who is in direct communication with our neighborhood as a whole as well as the other organizations operating in our neighborhood. After much discussion within the CNPCT and with the neighborhood at large we have voted to support this variance on the condition of preserving the existing, historic structure.

We have previously voted to oppose the demolition of the existing structure and after much negotiating and debate with the developer we have found a solution that works for all of us. The solution to increase the allowable 850 s.f. of the secondary living unit will help the developer meet the site potential he needs to make the purchase lucrative. The preservation of the existing home contributes to the historic fabric of our community and the human scale of the streetscape while the visibility of the neighbors from the porch helps to contribute to the safety of our neighborhood and the overall scale creates a sense of place.

Since there are not many homes left that embody the original nature of the neighborhood the way this home does, we have a number of conditions that we would like to place on the support of this variance.

## We would like to see the following:

- Preservation of both street facades, in terms of materials, details and scale.
- Details and materials carried through to the new construction, including any additions. Especially the tear drop siding that is so indicative of our neighborhood.
- The existing structure to remain one story. This helps to support the streetscape and human scale of the structure as well as reduces the amount of structural renovation or addition that may be needed to support an additional story.
- We will not support any future variances for the site in terms of site development, i.e. an increase to the FAR or Impervious Cover.
- Preservation of the persimmon trees in the front of the house.
- We would like the front facade of the rear structure to face Alamo so as to create a feeling on the site of two separate structures since the rear house could potentially be as large as the front house.

We also believe that our neighborhood plan has adopted the secondary infill tool as a way to help developers build on their land without sacrificing the historic homes in our neighborhood. We will support NewCastle in renovating the home, maintaining the exterior street facades and scale, and building a secondary home on the property.

In conclusion we are in support of the variance to increase the allowable secondary structure maximum square footage on the conditions of preservation outlined above.

Sincerely,

Trinity E. White Vice-chair CNPCT

# P.O. BOX 41418 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704

Brenda H. Collier President

512-680-5401 Brenda@atxinvestments.net

July 16, 2014

City of Austin Board of Adjustment

Re: 2100 East 14<sup>th</sup> BOA Case # C15- 2014-0108

Honorable Board of Adjustment Chair and Members:

ATX Investments LLC owns property located at and 1903 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St, and is also purchasing property at 1907 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St. I am quite familiar with the site and the Chestnut Neighborhood Association's desire to restore the original structure. I am also very familiar with Newcastle Homes and the solution they worked out with the Chestnut Neighborhood Association and the City Historic Preservation Office.

This solution calls for Newcastle Homes to restore the original home if they receive a variance to build a secondary apartment larger than 850 square feet. Like the Chestnut Neighborhood Association and the City Historic Preservation Office, I strongly support this variance request and ask your Board to approve it.

This is an exemplary case of cooperation and a win-win solution that will make Chestnut and even nicer place to live. Please approve this variance request.

new H. Collie

Sincerely,

Brenda H. Collier

Tim Andrews & Keith Zeiler 2007 E. 17th St Austin, TX 78702

City of Austin Board of Adjustment Re: 2100 East 14th, BOA Case # C15- 2014-0108

7/16/2014

Honorable Board of Adjustment Chair and Members:

We own property just up the street from this address and have been watching the site and understand the Chestnut Neighborhood Association's desire to restore the original structure. We are also very familiar with Newcastle Homes and the resolution they worked out with the Chestnut Neighborhood Association and the City Historic Preservation Office.

We understand that the resolution calls for Newcastle Homes to restore the original home if they receive a variance to build a secondary apartment larger than 850 square feet. Like the Chestnut Neighborhood Association and the City Historic Preservation Office, we strongly support this variance request and ask your Board to approve it. Newcastle is doing good things in Chestnut and throughout east Austin by offering attractive new housing that often includes secondary apartments that provide more affordable housing options for our residents.

We think this is a great case of cooperation and a win-win solution that will make Chestnut an even nicer place to live. Please approve this variance request.

Sincerely,

Tim Andrews & Keith Zeiler

Tim Andrews Keith Zeiler