



Historic Landmark Commission  
c/o Austin Historic Preservation Office  
Planning and Development Review Dept.  
P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, Texas 78767

October 24, 2014

Dear Historic Landmark Commission Members:

Recently, a series of articles have appeared in the Austin Chronicle regarding the Pine Street Station property, located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Waller. The articles contain several inaccuracies that we are seeking to clarify now.

Ms. Reji Thomas was delinquent in rent owed to Capital Metro since last spring and notice was sent to her in July that she was in default on her lease with the Authority. No effort or agreement was made to remedy the default on the lease and in September, Capital Metro proceeded with legal action to evict her from the property. During a subsequent eviction hearing, Ms. Thomas did not contest Capital Metro's assertion that she was in default under the terms of her lease. At that time, the judge awarded possession of the building to Capital Metro and gave Ms. Thomas five days to vacate the property in compliance with the law. Capital Metro has been working with Ms. Thomas for several weeks to make arrangements to vacate the property. Capital Metro has granted Ms. Thomas two time extensions to remove her belongings.

The building was reviewed by two outside organizations and in both cases it was determined that this building does not meet the requirements of a historical building. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process required for potential future use of the property, the Texas Historical Commission determined that Capital Metro's proposed use of the property would have no effect on historical properties. We have provided the consultant's report regarding potential historical buildings on the site to Mr. Steve Sadowsky, the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Austin for your review.

Capital Metro has made every effort to work with Ms. Thomas to resolve this situation while giving her ample time to remove her belongings from the property. Though Ms. Thomas has moved slower than expected, we have worked with her and her representatives to allow her enough time and space to complete the transition out of the property.

As Capital Metro works towards redeveloping the area around Plaza Saltillo, we continue to be mindful of the impact to the neighborhood while looking forward to working with community members to develop the property in a manner that is respectful to East Austin and will serve the community for years to come.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Regards,



John Hodges  
Capital Metro Vice President, Real Estate & Asset Management

cc: Steve Sadowsky, Historic Preservation Officer  
Kalan Contreras, Senior Planner  
Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors  
Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority President & CEO Linda S. Watson