From: JC
To: Contreras, Kalan
Subject: Fwd: 1606 Watchill Road
Date: Friday, September 25, 2015 3:27:58 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: JC <jmchri@aol.com>
To: steve.sadowsky <steve.sadowsky@austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wed, Aug 12, 2015 2:29 pm
Subject: 1606 Watchill Road

Members of the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission
City of Austin
Austin, Texas

Dear Honorable Members

I have never NOT supported historic zoning for houses in my neighborhood of Old Enfield. That is until this case at 1606 Watchill Road. I have lived in this neighborhood for 25 years so I know all the
historic houses or houses that should be designated historic in Old Enfield. Yes we have many that should be zoned historic but as you know it is very difficult to do if an owner objects and these houses would have owner objection. I also served 22 years on your same board the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission. The last 6 of those years I served as Chairman.

I don't know what your staff report will say but this house does not look today what it looked like say 15 years ago. The pillars were not on the original house. The upper porch area has been removed. The owners known as the Rob Rickards made major alterations to the exterior 15 years ago. They put in the pillars.

Regarding historic people associated with the house its most celebrated history has been in most recent years when the owners were the Ken Barfields. According to news reports he stole over a million dollars from the David Dewhurst campaign where he was a trusted aide. Every neighborhood needs a scandal or two and we certainly have had our share of scandalous people in Old Enfield. It is part of our history. When I moved here 25 years ago the house was owned by the Grays. Mrs Gray was connected to the Bellmont family for which Belmont Hall at UT is named I believe she was the daughter of Theo Belmont. But her father never lived in the house. They would not recognize the house today.

It is a pretty house but it is not the same house it was 15 years ago.

Sincerely

Jim Christianson

1520 Windsor
Austin, Texas

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