

Rice, Andrew

From: Marie Wilkinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 9:28 AM
To: Rice, Andrew
Subject: Case HDP-2018-0275-307 Leland Street

Good morning Mr. Rice,

Thank you for speaking with me concerning the Public Hearing on June 25. Due to the short notice I am unable to attend.

I object to the application for a demolition permit by Drenner Group on the grounds that the property may have historical significance. As a Board Director of the 1940 Air Terminal Museum I am passionate about preserving history. Austin is so important to Texas history. I do not want the city turned into a "cookie cutter" modern city that will be ugly in a short time. Please save some grace, elegance and history for now and the future!

Marie Wilkinson
20503 Atascocita Shores Dr.
Humble 77346

Austin address: 2215 Post Rd., #1068.

Sent from my iPhone

Rice, Andrew

From: Angela Reed [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 10:13 AM
To: Tollett, Blake - BC; Koch, Kevin - BC; Reed, Emily - BC; Galindo, Mary - BC; Brown, Andrew - BC; Myers, Terri - BC; Valenzuela, Sarah - BC; Hibbs, Emily - BC; Hudson, Trish - BC
Cc: Sadowsky, Steve; Bertron, Cara; Rice, Andrew
Subject: HDP-2018-0275, 307 Leland

Dear Chair Galindo and Commission Members:

I am writing to oppose demolition of the house at 307 Leland for the following reasons:

- 1) This house will be considered contributing to the pending Travis Heights-Fairview Park National Register Historic District, which is expected to be complete by this time next year. We do not want to lose any more of our contributing houses to this district.
- 2) Not only are neighbors concerned about the loss of this historic house from the pending NRHD, we are also very concerned about what may be built in its place that could be incompatible with the district. Since plans have not been submitted prior to demolition, we have no way of knowing the future plans for the site. This is a very large piece of property which currently has three units (the main house, which was subdivided and rented, and the 2 houses or duplex in the back portion of the property).
- 3) As is typically the case with these demolitions due to our city's policy, backup is not posted to the City website until very late prior to HLC hearing, which does not give neighborhood stakeholders sufficient time to research the property or contact the owner. When we receive the letter alerting us to a demolition, the letter states where to find more information on the city website, but with no information on that website. In this case, I checked the City website daily and items were not posted on either the city permitting website, nor was the HLC agenda and backup posted until late last week.
- 4) This house can be restored. It is not in such a condition that it requires demolition. It was rented for many years until recently, as were the two houses at the back of the property. I also personally know of two people who offered to purchase the property to restore the house. I realize that regulating demolition is not in the purview of this commission, and that you share these concerns; but as has been stated time and again - it is a terrible shame to this city that with our policies, we incentivize demolition rather than making better use of existing resources and instead restoring our homes.
- 5) This house is in a significant location to the neighborhood:
 - It "bookends" Newning Avenue, which stretches the length of Fairview Park-Travis Heights. On the Fairview Park end of the street is a more grand, stately Victorian (The Academy House, a City Historic Landmark), located in what was historically a more affluent section of the neighborhood; while this 307 Leland House, a more modest late Victorian farmhouse is at the other end, is typical of this historically working-class section of the neighborhood.

--This house is in a highly visible location, straight-on at the end of Newning, where it "dead ends" into Leland. Both are streets where people from around the neighborhood and from Congress Avenue walk and bike frequently, as Leland is at the end of the through-street (Newning) and it's at this house people

face and then turn to exit the neighborhood and/or walk to the nearby very busy #801 bus stop; or, where they enter and turn to enter the neighborhood.

While I realize we have a flawed system in our city, leaving neighbors with little to no recourse or control when it comes to demolitions or changes in our neighborhoods despite the fact that these changes affect all of us who live nearby, I urge you to - in whatever way you can - request that the owner pause and consider options to demolition of this house, and to ask that the owner at least meet with neighborhood stakeholders (SRCC and/or the preservation committee of the SRCC) to discuss plans for this property prior to its demolition.

Thank you,

Angela Reed
1924 Newning Ave.

Bertron, Cara

From: Michele Webre [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 1:42 PM
To: Tollett, Blake - BC; Koch, Kevin - BC; Reed, Emily - BC; Galindo, Mary - BC; Brown, Andrew - BC; Myers, Terri - BC; Valenzuela, Sarah - BC; Hibbs, Emily - BC; Hudson, Trish - BC
Cc: Sadowsky, Steve; Bertron, Cara; Rice, Andrew
Subject: 307 Leland Demo Application

Dear Chair Galindo and Commissioners,

I'm writing in opposition to the demolition of the Victorian house at 307 Leland. Angela Reed, a fellow neighbor and SRCC Historic Preservation Committee Co-Chair, has written an excellent email to you that lists many of the reasons this house should not be demolished. I agree with what she wrote and ask that you at least **postpone** this for another month so the neighborhood will have time to find out more about this house and possibly talk with the owners. I'm out of town right now or I'd be at the hearing this evening.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for the work you do for historic preservation in Austin.

Michele Webre
Co-Chair, Historic Preservation Committee
South River City Citizens (SRCC)
HistoricTravisHeights.org

Rice, Andrew

From: Melanie Martinez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 2:32 PM
To: Tollett, Blake - BC; Koch, Kevin - BC; Reed, Emily - BC; Galindo, Mary - BC; Brown, Andrew - BC; Myers, Terri - BC; bc-Sara.valenzuela@austintexas.gov; Hibbs, Emily - BC; bc-trish.hudson@austintexas.gov
Cc: Sadowsky, Steve; Bertron, Cara; Rice, Andrew
Subject: 307 Leland

Dear Chair Galindo and Commission Members:

I am writing to oppose demolition of the house at 307 Leland.

As you know, we have been working on both local and national historic district designations for Travis Heights for about 15 years now, with our only success being the block of Mary Street designated recently.

This house on Leland is very important to our pending National Register District, which we are working to have complete within a year. It is heartbreaking to lose any home that is contributing to our future district but this house, in particular, has a very visible location, as well. What will be built there next? It's location means it will be a highly visible and character-defining structure. We have not seen any plans yet--and while it is not required as long as we have no designation--we are fearful of what will be developed there and that it will set a precedent for other large developments in the area, like the one across the street from me on Newning. It has been very destructive to my community and I've watched landscapes ruined, wildlife poisoned and driven out, flooding and, worst of all, dear neighbors driven from their homes due to noise, lights, and property tax increases as their land values skyrocket.

At the very least, we would like more time to work with the developer and see what they have in mind so that it might be compatible with a future district. We have not had enough time to view the backup materials.

I am attending Texas State University studying interior design and have restored two historic landmark homes in Fairview Park. I believe that this Leland property can be restored and doesn't require demolition. If anyone with today's mindset would have seen my houses before restoration, they definitely would have them demolished. Now, however, they are here to contribute to the story of Fairview Park which is largely forgotten.

From what I understand, there have been offers to buy and restore the house on the property. I wish you could convince the current owners to sell. It just breaks my heart to see another demolition in such a formerly pristine area in the middle of our historic neighborhood and know that the owners have no concern for our existing community and role in Austin's history.

While I know you only have purview to protect landmarks and properties in local historic districts, I always hope you can find a way to help the property owners understand that they will have much more support in our community if they can work toward something agreeable to all parties. We have not shown rigidity in any of our negotiations with property owners. In fact, we basically sacrificed some of our Bluebonnet Hills history by changing its period of significance to mollify those opposed to the district, effectively eliminating them from contributing status. Yet, they still opposed us. We are obviously an agreeable group!

Please do whatever you can to help us preserve this property. Feel free to call me or email if you would like to know more about our efforts. Thank you for all you do to preserve Austin's history.

Sincerely,
Melanie Martinez
1214 Newning Ave.
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 294-7243