

## Gaudette, Angela

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**From:** Gaudette, Angela  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2020 1:35 PM  
**To:** Gaudette, Angela  
**Subject:** FW: Item D-1, Case HDP-2020-0274; 815 Rutherford/1204 Alta Vista

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**From:** Melanie Martinez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2020 1:29 PM  
**Subject:** Item D-1, Case HDP-2020-0274; 815 Rutherford/1204 Alta Vista

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing again to oppose the demolition of the two properties at 815 Rutherford and 1204 Alta Vista. Just to summarize, I'm a long-time resident of Fairview Park and a volunteer with the SRCC's Preservation Committee, but I am writing as a resident, rather than as a representative of that group. You may also remember that I was part of the group which organized the creation of our National Register Historic District. I appreciate the postponement given this case last month and hope we can still find a way to save some of our neighborhood's historic character.

I stand by all the pleas I made in my last letter on these proposed demolitions. Both the Tudor house on Rutherford and the Minimal Traditional house on Alta Vista are contributing properties to our historic district. While they are in poor condition now, I believe they definitely could be saved, and very cleverly remodeled. Leaving them as separate properties and remodeling or restoring them could also create an opportunity for rental income, which could offer the owner tax credits for rehabilitation.

While the loss of a piece of our neighborhood's story and architectural history is my primary objection to demolition, I feel the owner's proposed design looms over the streetscape. I have not heard if they have altered their plans since the last meeting, but I sincerely hope that they could be encouraged to save the Rutherford House--at the very least! That alone could help retain some of the historic character at this entry point to our district. Of course, my ideal outcome would be saving both.

Thank you for doing what you can to help us preserve our neighborhood's history.

Melanie Martinez  
1214 Newning Ave.  
Austin TX 78704

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