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**18 December 2020**

**RE: 502 W 15<sup>th</sup> Street – SP-2020-0202C**

City of Austin Planning Commission  
Austin, Texas

Dear Commissioners:

The Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA) Board of Directors opposes the partial waiver of the city code requirements listed in this notice. Additionally, it supports the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association's position stated in its email of Wednesday, December 16, 2020 that follows.

Within OANA's boundaries (Lamar to Lavaca; Ladybird Lake to 15<sup>th</sup> Street) there is a unique neighborhood of old and new buildings. We advocate for the restoration of significant historic properties and support compatible development that helps maintain the historic and residential character of our neighborhood.

While this property is on the north side and OANA's boundary is the southern side of 15<sup>th</sup> Street we support DANA's request because it is in the interest of all those who live, work, or play downtown.

We urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Ted Siff, President

Attachment: DANA email of December 16, 2020

cc: Vanessa Mendez and Randall Rouda

**Board of Directors**

**Ted Siff, President**  
**Perry Lorenz**  
**Austin Stowell**

**Blake Tollett, Secretary**  
**Charles Peveto**  
**Diana Zuniga**

**Ray Canfield, Treasurer**  
**Michael Portman**  
**Charles Peveto**

**Katie Jackson**  
**Chris Riley**  
**Austin Stowell**

**From:** Chris Riley <[chris1310@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chris1310@sbcglobal.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:01 AM

**To:** 'bc-James.Shieh@austintexas.gov' <[bc-James.Shieh@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-James.Shieh@austintexas.gov)>; 'BC-Robert.Schneider@austintexas.gov' <[BC-Robert.Schneider@austintexas.gov](mailto:BC-Robert.Schneider@austintexas.gov)>; 'bc-Patricia.Seeger@austintexas.gov' <[bc-Patricia.Seeger@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-Patricia.Seeger@austintexas.gov)>; 'BC-Claire.Hempel@austintexas.gov' <[BC-Claire.Hempel@austintexas.gov](mailto:BC-Claire.Hempel@austintexas.gov)>; 'bc-todd.shaw@austintexas.gov' <[bc-todd.shaw@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-todd.shaw@austintexas.gov)>; 'bc-Greg.Anderson@austintexas.gov' <[bc-Greg.Anderson@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-Greg.Anderson@austintexas.gov)>; 'bc-Carmen.Llanes@austintexas.gov' <[bc-Carmen.Llanes@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-Carmen.Llanes@austintexas.gov)>; 'BC-Patrick.Howard@austintexas.gov' <[BC-Patrick.Howard@austintexas.gov](mailto:BC-Patrick.Howard@austintexas.gov)>; 'bc-Jeffrey.Thompson@austintexas.gov' <[bc-Jeffrey.Thompson@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-Jeffrey.Thompson@austintexas.gov)>; 'BC-Awais.Azhar@austintexas.gov' <[BC-Awais.Azhar@austintexas.gov](mailto:BC-Awais.Azhar@austintexas.gov)>; 'bc-Yvette.Flores@austintexas.gov' <[bc-Yvette.Flores@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-Yvette.Flores@austintexas.gov)>; 'BC-Ann.Teich@austintexas.gov' <[BC-Ann.Teich@austintexas.gov](mailto:BC-Ann.Teich@austintexas.gov)>

**Cc:** 'Eileen M Portner' <[empartner@gmail.com](mailto:empartner@gmail.com)>; 'Kimberly Levinson' <[k.levinson@icloud.com](mailto:k.levinson@icloud.com)>; 'Rouda, Randall' <[Randall.Rouda@austintexas.gov](mailto:Randall.Rouda@austintexas.gov)>

**Subject:** 502 W.15th - Case # SP-2020-0202C

Dear Commissioners:

Your agenda for December 22 should include an item regarding a project at 502 W.15<sup>th</sup> St., labelled as case # SP-2020-0202C. The notice states that the applicant is seeking a partial waiver of the requirement to screen structured parking on the ground floor with a pedestrian oriented use.

The board of the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association has voted unanimously to oppose this waiver. Walkability is a high priority for DANA, and we see the code requirement at issue here as a much-needed tool for mitigating the negative effects of an above-grade parking garage on the pedestrian environment.

The code allows the Commission to waive this requirement only after determining that:

- (1) present and anticipated development in the area is not amenable to access by pedestrians;
- (2) the requirement does not allow a reasonable use of the property; or
- (3) other circumstances attributable to the property make compliance impractical.

§ [25-6-591\(D\)](#). None of those circumstances is present here. This site is highly amenable to access by pedestrians, as demonstrated every day by the Starbucks and 7-11 at other corners of this intersection. Nothing about this site makes compliance with the code requirement unreasonable or impractical.

We would be glad to work with the applicant to find a pedestrian-friendly solution. In the meantime, we urge you to deny this waiver.

Best regards,

Chris Riley, DANA Board Member

Eileen McPhillips Portner, DANA President

Kimberly Levinson, DANA Vice President