

Hello Austin City Council,

I am an owner at The Westgate tower and in support of zoning historic at the city level. As our building manager has mentioned, we as owners have shouldered increased costs and responsibility to take meticulous care of our building and preserve its historical integrity. There is simply no other building downtown that has taken the extreme care that the Westgate has to maintain our historic elements in their original condition. There is also no other residential building downtown that meets the requirements that the Westgate does. The Westgate also has some of the most modestly sized and affordable units in all of Downtown. We are one of the only buildings downtown to have units that sell for less than the average median home price in Austin. This is one of the reasons I chose the Westgate as my home.

My ask is that the City Council does not write off The Westgate as a haven for wealthy individuals and instead views the Westgate as a building that is comprised of owners from all economic backgrounds who have formed a community in the building with the common purpose of maintaining its' historic integrity and accuracy. If we do not get historic zoning, I fear that one day soon this admired building will have no choice but to sell to a developer who will turn it into another overpriced glass box that only the city's elite can afford. I also fear that without historic zoning, we will have no choice but to begin to make repairs to the building that erase its historic integrity in the name of cost savings. I ask that the City Council think about the owners who chose to live at the Westgate because it's what they could afford. I ask that the City Council thinks about the owners who have dedicated the time and money preserving the Westgate thus far to ensure we keep an old part of Austin still standing for the public to admire. I ask that the City Council thinks of the owners who chose the Westgate as their home because they have admired the building and dreamed about living in this historic residence since they were kids growing up in Austin.

We, as a building, have been doing our part to maintain this building and meet the requirements outlined so I ask that the Austin City Council takes a factual based approach and approves historic zoning.

-Carson Berry