

Samuel D. Byars
2103 Schulle Avenue, Austin TX 78703

February 27, 2023

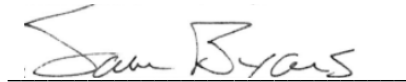
Esteemed Historic Landmark Commission:

My name is Sam Byars, and I am writing in support of Item #21 on the March 1 agenda. The permit numbers are PR-2023-005113 and GF-2023-013758. Mary Byars is my daughter.

This case is very similar to a 2019 case in which a request for a partial demolition permit was granted for the home located at 607 Texas Avenue. At that time the Hancock Neighborhood was in the process of researching a Local Historic District designation but there was no designation in place and the home at issue did not have historic landmark status. There were requests to defer the application to allow review of the applicants' plans, but the applicants were allowed to obtain the partial demolition permit. In the hearing discussion, Director Steve Sadowsky made the point that potential designation of a Local Historic District should not be the basis for a decision about that case and Commissioner Ben Heimsath pointed out that the Commission's appropriateness committee had no basis for review of the applicant's plans since the home at issue was not considered a historic landmark and was not located in a local historic district.

The facts in the current case are the same. 509 Texas Avenue is neither a historic landmark nor located in a local historic district. The criteria for historic landmark designation are set out in Section 25-2-352 of the City Code. Those criteria include a requirement in sub-part (A)(3) that the property either have a state or national historic designation or meet at least two of the five criteria listed in sub-part (3)(b). In the current case, 509 Texas Avenue has no state or national historic designation and City staff has determined that it does not meet any of the sub-part (3)(b) criteria. For these reasons we feel that there is no basis for denying or delaying the application for a partial demolition permit.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Byars". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sam Byars