

# 401 Ridgewood

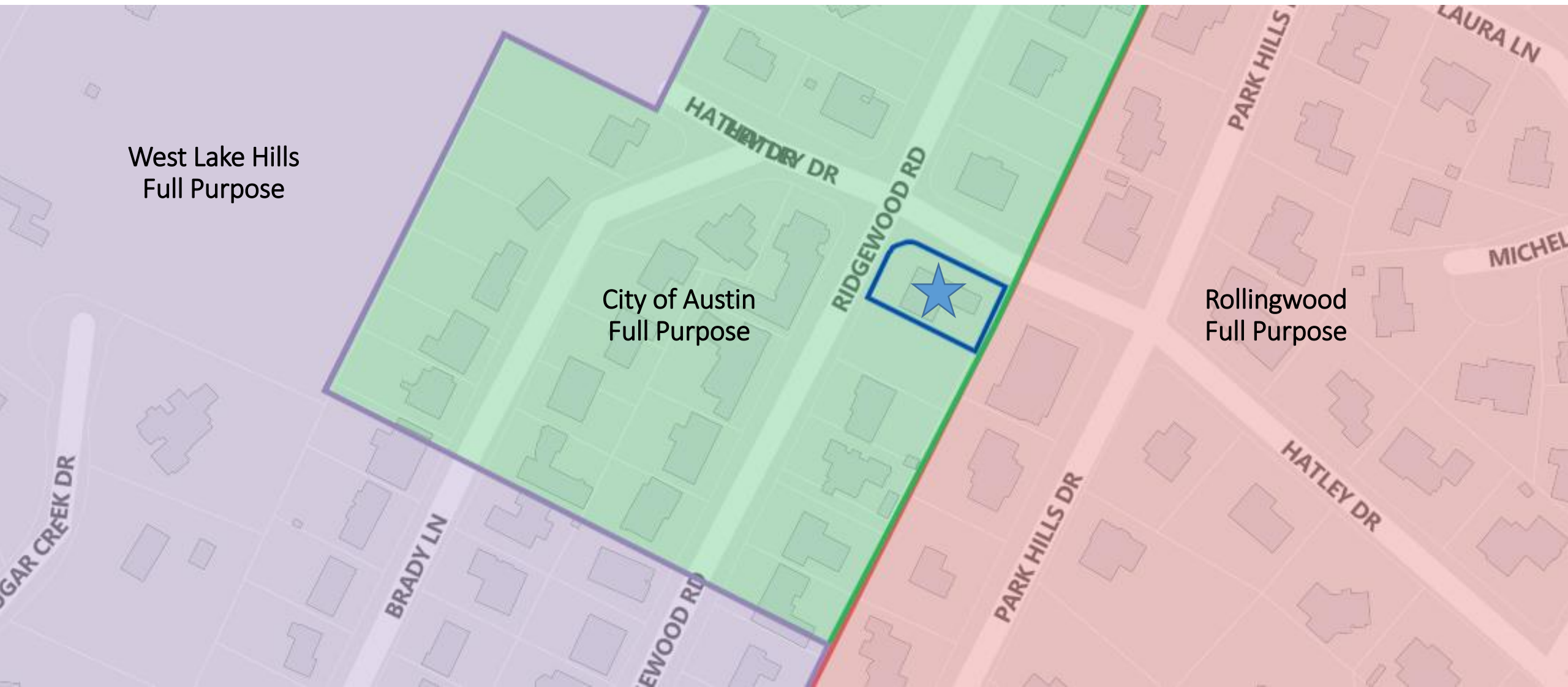
Demolition Permit Request

# Case Summary

The applicant requests the release of a demolition permit for 401 Ridgewood – a 1950s house with a limited connection to Austin humorist, Cactus Pryor.

This weak connection does not meet local or national standards for determining ‘historic association.’

Pryor’s daughter agrees that the case for historic association with her father is weak – and supports demolition.



401 Ridgewood, located at Austin's border with Rollingwood and West Lake Hills.





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# Policy Question: Historic Association

## Staff Report:

“Consider whether the Pryors’ five-year tenure in the home is sufficient to meet the criterion for historical associations.”

## Federal Standard for ‘Association with a Person’ Criterion:

“Generally, each property associated with an important individual must be compared to other associated properties to identify the one that best represents the person’s nationally historic contributions... The length of association is often an important factor when assessing several properties with similar historically important associations.”

## City of Austin Standard for Historical Association:

The property has long-standing significant associations with persons, groups, institutions, businesses or events of historic importance which contributed significantly to the history of the city, state, or nation...”

# Pryor Association

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House

Pryor Occupancy

Family Associated with Home

Ridgewood

5 years

2 of 4 children

Brady Lane

7 years

4 of 4 children

Blue Ridge Trail

~40 years

4 of 4 children



# Pryor Association

In my opinion, as Cactus Pryor's daughter, I personally believe that if there is a 'Cactus Pryor House' anywhere, it would be the Blue Ridge Trail house, not the Ridgewood house.

Our family's time in the Ridgewood house was relatively short and incomplete – two of my brothers never even lived on Ridgewood. In contrast, my father made a home for our entire family in the Blue Ridge Trail house, where he lived for four decades. At the very least, it would seem like an odd choice to connect my father's legacy to the Ridgewood house rather than to the places he lived and worked for most of his life.

To be clear: I have absolutely no financial interest or stake whatsoever in the outcome of this case. My family lived there briefly, and sold it six decades ago. I am only offering this perspective as an individual with firsthand knowledge of the facts of the case.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Pryor Guthrie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kerry Pryor Guthrie

Cactus Pryor's daughter believes the association for Ridgewood is insufficient – and supports demolition.

# Recap

While Cactus Pryor lived at 401 Ridgewood, his connection to it does not rise to the level of ‘historic association’ – especially compared to the Pryors’ other homes.

Pryor’s daughter agrees the historic association case is weak – and supports releasing the demolition permit.

Based on this analysis, the applicant respectfully requests that the commission release the demolition permit.



