

Allen, Amber

From: Barbara Epstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 8:38 AM
To: Allen, Amber
Subject: please add my remarks to the record and let me when I need to call in to be able to speak

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Thank you for the opportunity to address the commission today. I know that you, more than anyone else, understand the delicate balance between preservation and development choices Austin faces today and the importance that a single building can have on a street and in a neighborhood. 701 Sparks Ave. sits at the entrance to an almost entirely architecturally intact street adjacent to an equally historic city park, on a quiet corner of the neighborhood. Any buyer could tell that they were acquiring a desirable historic residence (with a garage apartment) and that modern re-development makes much more sense along busier neighborhood transit corridors. The Eastwoods neighborhood is already dense with significant multi-family housing and should be allowed to keep its historic, affordable, housing stock. 701 Sparks Ave. is a noteworthy example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture; it should be preserved, not turned into the first domino that begins the elimination of what's left of Eastwood's diverse, old architecture and mature tree canopy. The hard lesson we've learned in Austin is that sometimes we regret destroying a piece of exquisite history; once gone, you can't get it back. Someone still deserves to live in that gracious, welcoming house. I respectfully request that you deny the demolition.

Thank you!

Barbara Epstein

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