From: Contreras, Kalan
To: Fahnestock, Sam
Subject: FW: PR-2023-087312 – 701 Sparks Ave.
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 1:12:24 PM

Please add to backup. Thank you!

Kalan Contreras
Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning Department
512.974.2727 | kalan.contreras@austintexas.gov

From: Betsy Greenberg <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 9:14 PM
To: Heimsath, Ben - BC <BC-Ben.Heimsath@austintexas.gov>; Contreras, Kalan <Kalan.Contreras@austintexas.gov>; Dudley, Tara - BC <BC-Tara.Dudley@austintexas.gov>; Amber.Allen@austintexas.gov
Subject: PR-2023-087312 – 701 Sparks Ave.

[redacted] appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person.
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I am opposed to the demolition of this property. The staff report recommends initiating historic zoning and outlines that the property meets multiple criteria including age, architecture, historical association, and community value for historic zoning.

The applicant for demolition is claiming that significant work is needed on the house. This is not unusual for homes of that age and in no way indicates that the house needs to be demolished.

I am reminded of a case near my home, 902 W 30th St. At an April 2014 meeting of the Landmark Commission, the owner of 902 W 30th stated that he'd hired an engineer to assess the structure and the resulting recommendation was to demolish and rebuild. The report is not in the backup and the screenshot of the engineer's letter is too blurry to read. Ultimately, it was determined that because of heritage trees on the property, less instead of more could be built if the house was demolished. So, the house was not demolished and this **house that an engineer claimed should be torn down was renovated and a 2nd story was added in 2018** (along with foundation improvements.) Since then, I have been skeptical of claims that a house is in such bad condition that it cannot be saved. It also concerns me that large **trees were illegally removed** at 701 Sparks possibly out of fear that those trees would prevent the desired redevelopment of the property.

Please proceed with historic zoning and deny the demolition permit.

Thank you,
Betsy Greenberg

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