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Cc: [Historic Preservation Office](#); [Susan Armstrong Fisher](#)
Subject: HLC 7-3-24 meeting, agenda item 10: 1409 Alta Vista (PR-2024-033568)
Date: Monday, July 1, 2024 10:33:29 AM

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I am writing to oppose the issuance of a demolition permit for 1409 Alta Vista (PR-2024-033568). I am Co-chair of the South River City Citizens (SRCC) Historic Preservation Committee and a resident of the Travis Heights - Fairview Park National Register Historic District. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The SRCC approved a resolution regarding this home, which will be provided to you separately.

Because of technical difficulties last month, I was unable to speak virtually at that meeting, though I had signed up and was on the line when my name was called. What follows is substantively what I had intended to say, had the system worked as it should have. I will not be able to attend in person or virtually on July 3. Thank you for considering my comments in your decision.

The Travis Heights - Fairview Park National Register Historic District includes 353 acres of the South River City Citizens neighborhood area. It includes the core of the neighborhood and many of the oldest homes in the neighborhood. The district was approved in July 2021, because it meets the required eligibility criteria for protection on the National Register.

I urge you to disapprove the application for demolition of 1409 Alta Vista. Alta Vista is one of the most important streets in the National Register District. For example, the 2024 Preservation Austin historic homes tour featured the Mabel Davis home at 1308 Alta Vista, just a block away from this home proposed for demolition.

Both the house and the separate but associated garage are identified as contributing structures in the National Register Historic District listing. As such, they would need separate applications for a demolition permit.

1409 Alta Vista is a beautiful one-story craftsman home built in approximately 1926. I appreciate the staff review of this home, though I believe the property may meet the three required designation criteria for historic landmark status, including community value. I encourage you to evaluate this further.

As can be seen in the photos included with your backup material, there is no significant visible evidence of structural problems or major maintenance needs of this home. There is nothing in the back-up material for this agenda item showing any structural problems or planned improvements or anything else regarding their intentions, thus we have no way of knowing what if anything is wrong with the existing home.

Recent revisions to the City of Austin code provide incentives for preservation of historic homes, such as this one, which may not have been thoroughly considered by the applicant. And if they wish to construct one or two accessory dwelling units, there appears to be sufficient space on the back side of the lot.

I request you deny a demolition permit for this home.

Thank you,

Clifton Ladd

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