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Case Number PR-2026-079349 / GF-2026-090393 Written Protest: 706 E. Monroe Street

From Eric Darcy [redacted]
Date Wed 10/7/2026 4:47 PM
To Lukes, Austin <Austin.Lukes@austintexas.gov>; Historic Preservation Office <Preservation@austintexas.gov>

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Case Number PR-2026-079349 / GF-2026-090393
Written Protest: 706 E. Monroe Street

Dear Hunter Sturgill and Members of the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission,

I submit this protest of the proposed demolition of the contributing structure at 706 E. Monroe Street on behalf of my family and fellow neighbors within the Travis Heights Historic District.

This charming 1920s bungalow is a remarkable example of the historic architecture that gives Travis Heights its distinctive character and sense of place. With its broad, welcoming front porch and beautifully preserved period details, it embodies the architectural heritage and neighborhood spirit that have attracted generations of residents to this community.

Although our own home was built in 2014 and was designed to complement the surrounding historic context, homes like 706 E. Monroe were not available when we entered the housing market in 2019. We consider ourselves fortunate to live within view of this home and to benefit from the beauty and character it contributes to our daily lives.

The preservation of this structure is especially important because it represents the very qualities that inspired the creation and protection of the Travis Heights Historic District. As Austin continues to grow, historic homes such as this have become increasingly rare. Too often, they are replaced with larger, inward-facing structures that diminish the human scale and neighborly character that make communities vibrant and welcoming.

By contrast, 706 E. Monroe reflects the values that define Travis Heights. Its inviting front porch engages with the street and encourages the kind of interaction that fosters a strong sense of community. It is the type of home that supports a neighborhood culture built around walking, gathering, and knowing one's neighbors. Its demolition would result in an irreplaceable loss, not only to East Monroe Street but to the historic character of Travis Heights as a whole.

Once demolished, the authenticity, craftsmanship, and historical significance embodied by this structure cannot be recreated. No new construction, regardless of its design, can't fully replace the cultural and architectural value of a genuine contributing historic resource.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask the Historic Landmark Commission to:

1. Deny the requested demolition of the contributing structure at 706 E. Monroe Street; and

2. Direct the applicant to continue exploring all feasible alternatives to demolition, including preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse.

This home is more than a building. It is a tangible part of Travis Heights' history, character, and identity. It deserves to be protected for the benefit of current residents and future generations alike.

Respectfully,

Ann and Eric Darcy

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