



October 19, 2017

Dear Historic Landmark Commissioners and City Staff;

The East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Contact Team urges your continued support for the preservation of the Maldonado homes and the site of the Barron tortilla shop at 1410 and 1414 East Third (before you as items: HDP-2017-577 and PR-2017-117590). In response to the demolition requests for these properties, the ECCNPCT voted unanimously (at our monthly 10/18/17 meeting) to support preservation of these properties and to continue our support of the HLC/ staff initiated LHD proposal for this block of East Third.

It is our understanding that the history of the properties at 1410 and 1414 East Third and the character of these structures supported both the Hardy Heck Moore Survey's recommendation of this district and the HLC's vote to initiate a related proposal. The Maldonado's home at 1414 was the site of a beloved tortilla shop. The shop's building still stands behind the family's historic era home at 1414. The home at 1410 is sited by the survey as a residence of Jose Maldonado past President of the League of United Latin American Citizens (ECC volunteers are engaged in researching this claim as Jose Maldonado's residency in Texas is directly tied to a landmark Texas Federal District Court decision to abolish school segregation – a precursor to Brown v Board). This past summer, both homes were featured in the City of Austin's Mexican American Cultural Center's exhibit 'Home is Where the Heart Is'. The homes' histories reflect the experience and contributions of Mexican American families living under segregation in Austin, and the tight knit community that developed within the neighborhood at the time. In addition, they represent early examples of sustainable mixed-use development as the family lived and worked off their property, in service to the community, for many years.

The neighborhood celebrated the HLC's unanimous vote, back in April of this year, to initiate a local historic district proposal for the 1400 block of East Third. <http://eastcesarchavez.org/2017/04/historic-landmark-commission-supports-preserving-ecc-history/> Our team had understood and hoped that the initiation of this process would serve to protect this valued corner of our neighborhood. Our volunteers have researched properties and developed draft guidelines for an LHD within the ECC. Over the past six months our preservation chair has reached out to City and Council staff to understand how best to integrate our efforts with those of the City. To date, we have received neither guidance nor requests for information, but our community remains ready to assist and support all efforts to preserve these properties and the proposed district.

With our recent vote, we implore you to continue your support for the preservation of these important monuments of our communal past by denying the requested demolition permits and continuing to actively pursue an LHD in this area.

We hope that you join us in support of this great project.

Sincerely,

Susan Benz

Treasurer

East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Contact Team

CC: CM Sabino Renteria, Kalan Contreras, Steve Sadowsky, Cara Bertron, David Chincanchan

ECCNPCT via e-mail