

KEALING NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Historic - Diverse - Engaged

February 4th, 2019

To: Mayor Adler and Members of Austin City Council,
Members of the Historic Landmark Commission, and
Department of Planning & Zoning Historic Preservation Office
CC: Preservation Austin, Six Square, Organization of Central East Austin Neighborhoods

Re: Proposal to relocate the I.Q. Hurdle House, a historic landmark at 1416 East 12th Street,

Esteemed city officials, appointees, and staff,

Members of the Kealing Neighborhood Association voted unanimously at its February 2nd meeting to oppose any plan to relocate the historic house located at the corner of East 12th and Comal Streets. Our members support instead the rehabilitation in place of this important part of East Austin's cultural history.

Mr. Hurdle was principal of Kealing Middle School beginning in 1930. The house in its current location is adjacent to the Kealing Neighborhood, which contains in its entirety Kealing Middle School and its grounds. Hurdle's House also stands adjacent to the former Eisenbeiser grocery store and the Southgate-Lewis House, and as a trio these buildings are some of the last visual representations of the historical context and landscape of the vibrant African American heart of Central East Austin. Any plan to relocate the house would diminish its significance, and due to its state of disrepair, likely destroy the structure itself.

From its current appearance, the neighborhood considers this an instance of demolition by neglect. We urge city leaders to take action to compel the appropriate and culturally sensitive rehabilitation by its owner through appropriate channels, including possible partnership with Six Square, Preservation Austin, and anyone else working to preserve the legacy of African American presence and culture in our neighborhood.

Rosewood to East 12th – Comal to Chicon

Maegan Ellis, President

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maegan Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'M' and a trailing flourish.

Maegan Ellis

President, Kealing Neighborhood Association