

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to participate in a public hearing, you are not required to participate. This meeting will be conducted online and you have the opportunity to speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. Email or call the staff contact no later than noon the day before the meeting for information on how to participate in the public hearings online. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

During a public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date, or recommend approval or denial of the application. If the board or commission announces a specific date and time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days from the announcement, no further notice is required.

A board or commission's decision may be appealed by a person with standing to appeal, or an interested party that is identified as a person who can appeal the decision. The body holding a public hearing on an appeal will determine whether a person has standing to appeal the decision.

An interested party is defined as a person who is the applicant or record owner of the subject property, or who communicates an interest to a board or commission by:

- delivering a written statement to the board or commission before or during the public hearing that generally identifies the issues of concern (*it may be delivered to the contact person listed on a notice*); or
- appearing and speaking for the record at the public hearing; and
- occupies a primary residence that is within 500 feet of the subject property or proposed development;
- is the record owner of property within 500 feet of the subject property or proposed development; or
- is an officer of an environmental or neighborhood organization that has an interest in or whose declared boundaries are within 500 feet of the subject property or proposed development.

A notice of appeal must be filed with the director of the responsible department no later than 14 days after the decision. An appeal form may be available from the responsible department.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, please visit our website: www.austintexas.gov/abc

Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the contact person listed on the notice) before the public hearing. Your comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled date of the public hearing, the Case Number and the contact person listed on the notice.

**Case Number: C14H-2020-0069 – Rogers Washington Holy Cross
Historic District**
Contact: Cara Bertron, (512) 974-1446
Public Hearing: Historic Landmark Commission, July 27, 2020

☒ I am in favor
☐ I object

Patricia Calhoun
Your Name (please print)

2401 Givens Ave

Your address(es) affected by this application

Pato @ Calhoun
Signature

07-22-2020
Date

Comments: As a 2nd generation homeowner, (I live in the home my parent's built.) I am proud & pleased to register my support of new historic zoning for RWHC. This neighborhood represents a snapshot of African American life in Austin - 50's to present. We have worked tirelessly to prevent demolition of old and new construction out of character with the neighborhood. We have been diligent with our efforts to include old & new owners' concerns in developing design standards that maintain but do not eliminate creative design. Another major issue for older residents is the tax advantage that will offer a small degree of assistance in keeping our homes!!

If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to:
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
Historic Preservation Office, ATTN: Cara Bertron
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767-8810
E-mail: cara.bertron@austintexas.gov

Subject: Dissent to Historical District Designation for Rogers Washington Holy Cross Historical District (Case Number C14H-2020-0069)

Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 at 1:05:24 AM Central Daylight Time

From: Taylor McDowell

To: PAZ Preservation, Bertron, Cara

CC: Pamela Lim, merlioncapitalllc@gmail.com

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Dear Cara Bertron & The Historic Landmark Commission,

My name is Theodore ("Taylor") McDowell, and my wife, Pamela Lim, and I are the owners of record of 2011 Maple Avenue, Austin, Texas 78722. We purchased the property on April 30, 2020 through our limited liability company (Merlion Capital, LLC), of which we are the only members.

We are writing in advance of the July 27, 2020 Historic Landmark Commission meeting to note our **objection** to the proposed historic district in Rogers Washington Holy Cross (Case Number C14H-2020-0069).

We certainly appreciate the historical nature of the neighborhood and have great admiration for the intent behind this project. Despite the property being marketed to us as a "tear down," we have spent over \$20,000 in renovations after closing on the property to improve the interior and exterior of the property and make it habitable.

Unfortunately, while these renovations were necessary to make the home livable, they would have been exceedingly difficult to make under the historic district design standards as currently drafted, which we believe signals an imbalance between home preservation and requisite renovation and improvement. Accordingly, we share the concerns of the Blackhurst family with respect to the design standards, particularly in respect of existing and future development requirements. Given the difficulties in communication during the COVID-19 pandemic, finding resources and means for contacting the Design Committee has been exceedingly difficult, especially for new homeowners such as ourselves who have no pre-existing contacts within the neighborhood. ***We therefore similarly request that the Historic Landmark Commission delay their decision on the historic district designation so that we, the Blackhursts, and other dissenting voices may collaborate with the City of Austin, the Design Committee, and other community members in modifying the design standards and ensuring there is communal inclusivity in this process. We feel that this accommodation is especially important in light of the current pandemic, during which time methods of communication have been stalled due to infrastructural challenges.***

As an alternative, we would also like to propose the slight modification of the proposed historical district parameters to **exclude** our 2011 Maple Avenue address. We believe this could be a quick and easy solution given that our property is the northernmost property in the proposed historical district; the address of the proposed zoning change already indicates that the zone is "roughly bounded by East 21st street," meaning that our property's removal would not contravene this description. Further, the proposed historical district parameters exclude a number of properties located on Chestnut Ave and other homes that are otherwise included in the Rogers Washington Holy Cross neighborhood map on the City of Austin website, meaning the exclusion of 2011 Maple Avenue would be similar to the exclusion of these other homes. We also do not believe the exclusion of our property would derail the preservation of the remaining historical district, as 56 homes would still remain in the district and 46 would be "contributing" (*i.e.*, there would still be an 82% contribution rate). We feel that excluding our property from the historical district would be an effective and expeditious way of resolving our objection that relieves time, cost, and administrative burden for ourselves, the community members in favor of the historical designation, and the Historic Landmark Commission itself.

We look forward to speaking further on this issue during the July 27, 2020 meeting. In the interim, you may contact us at theodore.mcdowell@gmail.com or at MerlionCapitalLLC@gmail.com.

Best regards,
Taylor McDowell

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Theodore N. McDowell III, J.D.
theodore.mcdowell@gmail.com | 404-695-7757

CAUTION: This email was received at the City of Austin, from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious and/or phishing email, please forward this email to CSIRT@austintexas.gov.

Kate Singleton
Historic Preservation/Downtown Revitalization Consultant
1602 Ashberry Dr.
Austin, TX. 78723

July 10, 2020

Ms. Emily Reed, Chair and Historic Landmark Commissioners
City of Austin Landmark Commission
Historic Preservation Office
Planning and Zoning Dept.
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Ms. Reed and Commissioners,

Re: Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross District Preservation Application

Please accept this letter of support for the Roger-Washington-Holy Cross Neighborhood Association (RWHC) Historic District Designation Application. As you may know, when I was Executive Director for Preservation Austin, I worked closely with the neighborhood to gather information and begin the process of designation.

The Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross neighborhood was identified in the East Austin Historic Resources Survey (2016) as a potential local historic district and as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The history of the neighborhood tells a rich story of the development of East Austin in the Post-War years. The neighborhood was developed for the African American community returning from serving their country in World War II. It was developed for and by professors of Huston-Tillotson, principals and teachers of the local schools and business owners. The architecture speaks to the time period with houses that vary in style from John Chase's Modern Phillips house to handsome split-level and one story ranch homes. Many of the residents have lived in the neighborhood all their lives, bringing a pride of ownership and history that is being lost in Austin.

The neighborhood has worked hard for this designation. I should know as I attended numerous meetings with them! Over the past three years, they have done extensive outreach to and communicated with everyone in the neighborhood—from homeowners to renters to businesses and landlords.

Austin is quickly losing much of the fabric that tells the history of the city. East Austin has been especially hard hit, losing historically and culturally significant places. In this time of our City's history and our Nation's history it is important to preserve places like the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross neighborhood. We must be able to see the physical manifestation of our full history, not just read a plaque about it.

Again, I hope you will support the neighborhood's request for local historic designation for this neighborhood that clearly meets several of the designation criteria as established by code. The neighborhood has worked extraordinarily hard for this because they believe their history is worth saving too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kate Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.