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January 25, 2008

The Honorable Dave Sullivan, Chair
 City of Austin Planning Commission
 City of Austin
 P.O. Box 1088
 Austin, Texas 78768

Re: City of Austin Zoning Case No. C14H-07-0031 - Henry Colley House

Dear Chair and Commission Members:

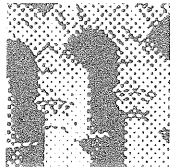
HSA offers this letter to supplement our previous correspondence, to address the specific designation criteria HSA believes appropriate for the Colley House.

Sections 25-2-352(A)(3)(b)(ii) and (iv) of the Code enables the designation of a property representative of a culture or group of people in a historical era through its use.¹ Aided by the significant research conducted after review by Mr. Sadowsky, documentation reveals this area (west of Clarksville to the River) to have contained a poorly documented settlement of freed slaves and other African Americans in the late 1800s and the early 1900s.

The Colley House is one of the last remaining visible links to this Freedman settlement and of the Reconstruction era in this area of Austin. For the home of a freed slave it is substantial and exceptional not only for its location, but also for its condition and beauty. For this reason, we believe the Colley House meets the standards for historic designation.

Finally, the City's African American Quality of Life Initiative, an ongoing effort initiated in 2005, noted the lack of recognized historical sites relating to Austin's significant African American population, and recommended that the City more

¹ (ii) "the property is substantially associated with persons, groups, institutions, businesses, or events of historical significance which contributed to the social, cultural, economic, development, or political history of the city, state, or nation; or the property is representative of a culture or group of people in a historical era through its architecture, method of construction, or use;" and (iv) "the property possesses value to the community because it significantly represents the cultural, economic, social, ethnic, artistic, or historical heritage of the city or an area of the city; or because it has a location, physical characteristics, or other unique features which greatly contribute to the character or image of the city, a neighborhood, or a population group."



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prominently acknowledge and promote this history.² We believe historic zoning of the Colley House would be an important step in meeting the stated objectives of the Initiative.

HSA urges your support of historic zoning for the Colley House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Donisi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Philip Donisi
President
Heritage Society of Austin

² See City of Austin, *A Community Position Paper ON THE CITY OF AUSTIN'S STUDY OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS*, June 23, 2005, Arts, Culture & Entertainment Recommendations.