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December 3, 2007

The Honorable Betty Baker, Chair
 City of Austin Zoning & Platting Commission
 City of Austin
 P.O. Box 1088
 Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Madam Chair and Commission Members:

The Preservation Committee of the Heritage Society of Austin respectfully requests your support for the designation of the Harthan Street Local Historic District.

The opportunity to utilize a local historic district mechanism has been a priority for HSA for many years. From initiation of the concept, to the crafting of the ordinance through to its enactment, our members have been involved in advocating for the ability to utilize districts as a preservation mechanism. In addition, we have offered a limited grant to assist at-need neighborhoods or organizations that seek local historic district status.

As the initial application to be acted upon by the City under a new ordinance, we understand that there will be issues of first impression that must be addressed, and that questions that will arise. To the extent that HSA or our members are able to assist in this process, we trust you will call upon us.

For over 50 years the Heritage Society has been the leading protector of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. As such, we believe that learning from and celebrating our past while planning for and creating the future enhances livability and a sense of identity.

We urge your support for the local historic district application, and thank you for your many hours of hard work to preserve what is best about Austin for future generations.

Sincerely,

John Philip Donisi
 President, Board of Directors

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