

Dear _____:

My name is _____ and I live at _____ in Houston, Texas.

I am emailing to express my **STRONG OPPOSITION to the PROPOSED CHANGES to Ch. 33, The Historic Preservation Ordinance, namely the proposal to abolish Sec 33.253 Appeal** from the Ordinance.

Sec 33.253 was introduced in 2015 in order to secure public support for the passage of the revisions to the Historic Preservation Ordinance after months of public hearings and discussions. Its inclusion in the final draft of the Ordinance was an essential component to assure passage by Council. Elimination of this process would place an unreasonable and unfair burden on citizens of the City who have VOLUNTARILLY chosen to surrender certain property rights to insure preservation of their historically significant properties for the benefit of the City as a whole. It would pit owners of historic properties, many of whom who have lived in these properties their entire lives, against the might of the City of Houston in District Court in order to seek redress from adverse decisions of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission.

Unlike the Tower Commission and Planning Commission, the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission is charged with deciding cases that involve balancing these property owners' needs against the desire to preserve the historical character of Houston neighborhoods. The issues and processes are fundamentally different from those addressed by either the Tower or Planning Commissions, and so should be the appellate process.

I urge you **STRONGLY TO OPPOSE REMOVAL OF SEC 33.253 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance**. Removal of this critical section is highly likely to prevent the creation of any new Historic Districts within the City of Houston and would be widely viewed as a BETRAYAL OF PUBLIC TRUST established when version 3 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance was passed in 2015. Indeed, rescission of Sec 33.253 could well be the first step leading to complete repeal of the Historic Preservation Ordinance as property owners rebel against the lack of an equitable appellate process.

Further, rushing the proposed revisions through the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission and to Council less than 60 days prior to an election that will change the makeup of Council seems undemocratic at best.

Sincerely, _____