



SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

November 7, 2018

STATEMENT:

TO: Michael Guarino, Chair, and Members
Historic and Design Review Commission, City of San Antonio

RE: Agenda Item 27 – 255 – 259 Brahan Blvd
HDRC Case No. 2018-522
Historic District: Westfort

The San Antonio Conservation Society objects to the increase in density created by the eight-unit development planned for 255 – 259 Brahan. This lot is located in the Westfort Historic District and lies within the area addressed by the Westfort Alliance Neighborhood Plan.

The 1997 Westfort Alliance Neighborhood Plan sought to "preserve and enhance the residential character of the neighborhood" and "promulgate land use and zoning policy [that] both preserves the character of the neighborhood. . . and is consistent with city programs and goals." The 2003 update to the neighborhood plan also stated that, "it is desired that single family houses that have been divided into apartments and multiple living units be restored to single-family use."

In 2016, the Society urged the City Council to support the individual landmark designation of the C.T. Boelhauwe house at 255 Brahan, which contributed both architecturally and historically to the Westfort neighborhood. The decision to deny landmark designation paved the way for demolition of what had originally been one single-family house, contradicting the goals set forth in the Westfort Alliance Neighborhood Plan.

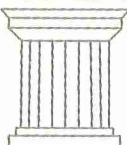
Although the historic Arts and Crafts bungalow at 255 Brahan no longer exists to be restored to single-family use as recommended, there is no reason to compound the oversight that led to its loss by allowing two, four-unit multi-family structures to be built in its place.

Respectfully,

SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Susan Beavin, President

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The Purpose of this Society is to preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs, relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty, and all that is admirably distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow, with knowledge of our inherited regional values.

