

# SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD 22

## WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION - MEMORIAL PARK

April 16, 2015

### **RE: Mallalieu United Methodist Church building in First Ward**

The Washington Avenue Coalition / Memorial Park Superneighborhood Council (SN22) submits this expression of support for a community proposal to save, relocate and repurpose the Mallalieu United Methodist Church building.

This structure served an historic African American congregation, founded in 1884, in Houston's First Ward. The congregation constructed this building in 1926 using salvaged lumber from the World War I-era Army training facility at Camp Logan. When the camp was decommissioned, congregation members loaded horse-drawn wagons and drove materials down Washington Avenue to the Hickory Street site where the new church served as a core of the community for years. This structure received historic designation in 2006.

The First Ward community envisions the structure being relocated to one of two pocket parks within the neighborhood boundary and repurposed as a community center with a First Ward Heritage Museum which would be a repository of historic photos, maps and memorabilia related to the area. It would also serve as a much needed space in which to host civic council meetings and events.

Houston's First Ward Civic Council, one of SN22's constituent neighborhood organizations, prefers that this building, for its historical value, be renovated and not demolished.

The SN22 Council wants our area's viable historic structures, especially those in proximity to recognized historic districts, preserved and re-purposed.

We urge supporters and decision makers to accept the First Ward's proposal, thereby assuring that this historic building is appropriately preserved and becomes a contributor to SN22's quality of place and community identity in accordance with goals defined by our Livable Centers Study.

Thank you for your consideration,



Tom Dornbusch  
SN 22 Council, President