

# WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION - MEMORIAL PARK

May 12, 2014

To: City of Houston Council Members

**Re: Agenda item #12 - High First Ward Historic District Designation**

The First Ward is one of the four original wards established by Houston's city government in 1840. As such, it has a rich history, a blend of commerce and community that continues today.

Fortunately, of the Washington Avenue Coalition - Memorial Park Superneighborhood's (SN22) eleven constituent neighborhoods, the First Ward and Sixth Ward have adequate remaining areas of original residential fabric in place to warrant consideration for historic designation. All of our other neighborhoods that were later platted and might have potentially qualified only a few short years ago for their streets lined with early bungalows and mid-century ranch-style homes no longer have sufficiently intact areas of original housing stock.

This represents a loss not only to our neighborhoods, but to all of Houston's citizens, as the city has lost large swaths of its history.

When, as in First Ward, a group of like-minded neighborhood residents come together in an effort to save their area's historic heritage and identity, it should be incumbent on you the City's leadership to acknowledge and reward their diligence, dedication and commitment to preservation.

We urge you to follow the recommendation of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission and approve, as proposed, the designation of the High First Ward Historic District.

Thank you for all that you do for Houston,



Tom Dornbusch  
President  
Washington Avenue Coalition - Memorial Park  
Super Neighborhood 22 Council

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