

# WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION - MEMORIAL PARK

To: Harris County Commissioners

**Re: Jeff Davis Hospital Nurses Quarters- 1225 Elder Street 77007**

The Washington Avenue Coalition / Memorial Park Superneighborhood Council (SN22) submits this expression of community support for the request by Avenue Community Development Corporation (Avenue CDC) to purchase the former Nurses' Quarters building and site at 1225 Elder Street.

This property lies within Houston's First Ward one of SN22's constituent neighborhoods. It is the preference of the community that this building, for its historical value, be renovated and not demolished.

It is our desire to have viable historic structures, especially those in proximity to recognized historic districts, re-purposed and Avenue CDC is a trusted non-profit SN22 constituent with a proven record of high quality preservation.

SN22 recognizes and respects that Avenue CDC has a long standing reputation for effectively preserving, renovating, and building affordable housing in Houston with excellent examples located in our area.

Additionally this property is sited within the newly designated Washington Avenue Arts District, and this district will be enhanced by having display space provided, as proposed by Avenue CDC, for items relevant to the history of First Ward.

The property contains multiple burial sites dating from the civil war era which should be honored and remain undisturbed.

The Nurses' Quarters served an auxiliary function to the adjacent Old Jeff Davis Hospital which was previously renovated by Avenue CDC. Their renovation of the Nurses' Quarters would not only serve the community and Arts District with exhibition space, but as with the Jeff Davis Hospital building, CDC's proposed renovation will provide working artists with affordable living and studio space.

We urge the Commissioner's to accept Avenue CDC's proposal, thereby assuring that this historic site 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.



Tom Dornbusch  
President  
Super Neighborhood 22 Council

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