DuCroz, Diana - PD

From: Jonathan Smulian

Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 11:13 AM

To: PD - Historic Ordinance

Subject: COA appeals

To the committee reviewing the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

I have been very concerned about the validity of the process of an applicant appealing HAHC decisons to the Planning Commission and the Council and would appreciate it if the committee would consider the following suggestion. Given that the Planning Commission is not nessarily appointed because of their expertise in this matter, they may not be competant to decide whether the aesthetic and/or structural changes to a contributing historic structure are appropriate or not and whether the HAHC's decisions in this regard are consistent with the ordinance's physical criteria. My suggestion is that the ordinance be modified so that a COA appeal to the Planning Commission could only be made on the basis of procedural matters relating the the ordinance and this would exclude the Commission's consideration and judgement as to whether proposed physical changes to an historic structure are appropriate.

I am a 31 year resident and property owner in an historic district.

Jonathan Smulian FRTPI, Assoc.AIA Emeritus, Reg. Arch.(UK) 1231 Arlington St .
Houston Texas 77008