

Cory Edwards (OHP)

From: Christopher Erck <chris@swig.com>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 3:20 PM
To: Cory Edwards (OHP)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Viewshed Ordinance

Hi Cory-

I stopped by your office to speak with you about the Viewshed ordinance. As I understand it is still in the development phase, I am eager to propose two buildings for consideration.

Both are important San Antonio landmarks that deserve protection from overdevelopment and overshadowing.

The first is the new David Adjaye designed Ruby City museum of the Linda Pace Foundation. This building has been in the works for more than 10 years and will be an international icon, with massive international interest which will draw visitors from all over the world. Adjaye is the most sought after architect working today and having such an important building in San Antonio is a game changer. This building was sited on San Pedro Creek and does an incredible job of integrating with the creek for access and views. This incredible jewel should be protected from overbuilding in the area and it's relation to the creek is a perfect example of strategic urban planning.

The second is the iconic Camp Street Residences building. Built in 1906 as the Duerler Candy factory, this historic building is distinctive in its architecture and stature in the Southtown landscape. There are only two tall buildings in this south of downtown neighborhood—Camp Street and Pioneer--and both should be protected. For years, the emblematic water tower atop the Camp Street building has been a beacon for downtown and it's prior use as the Tobin Aerial survey building has a rich and important history. The Tobin family wealth came from the aerial surveys they did of South Texas properties. Often times the land owner could not afford to pay for the survey so Tobin traded out a small percentage of oil royalty in exchange for creating the survey. Those small percentages added up to big profits and the Tobin legacy has greatly impacted the city of San Antonio through support of many civic and arts organizations including the McNay Museum and the world renowned Tobin Center for the Performing Arts. When Linda Pace redeveloped the property, she took great care to preserve the architectural integrity of the building. It would be tragic to have the building lost behind other new and unimportant structures. The iconic presence of Camp Street should be carefully preserved through the Viewshed ordinance.

Let me know if I need to send anything more formal. Protecting these buildings is particularly important in light of the Dean Steel proposed development.

Please give me a call to discuss further.

Thanks for all you do for the city.

Best regards,

Chris
210.393.3463