

June 22, 2014

Daryl Cole, P.E., Director Tucson Department of Transportation PO Box 27210 Tucson, AZ 85726

Re: 13 & 15 E Sixth St Historical Structures

The Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association (DSNA) would like to support the Warehouse Management Organization's (WAMO) position to save the historic structures at 13 and 15 E Sixth St. DSNA understands these ADOT warehouses are subject to demolition as early soon as late July.

DSNA is unified in our opinion that buildings within the Tucson Historic Warehouse Arts District need to be preserved. They represent an important time period in our history. Buildings with architecture like these will never be built again.

Downtown Links plans presented to the public indicate that 510 N Stone Ave is a structure in the path of the roadway. It is clear that 510 N Stone is not a contributing structure based upon the 1999 Warehouse District Historic District Map. A structural engineer has not reviewed the structural integrity of 13 and 15 E Sixth St to determine if the buildings could stand on their own once 510 N Stone is demolished. DSNA agrees with WAMO's position that the historic structures of 13 and 15 E Sixth St could be structurally stabilized and their demolition avoided during the demolition of 510 N Stone Ave.

We are already losing ten warehouses within this district to the Downtown Links / Aviation Highway; some have already been demolished and some are slated to be demolished. Preserving the irreplaceable historic nature of this area benefits downtown Tucson, our local businesses, and neighborhoods. These losses are not one-time and continue to degrade the downtown experience far into the future.

Funding for stabilization is an obvious challenge in saving these historic warehouses. DSNA understands that an escrow account that has been funded by rent proceeds collected from other ADOT controlled property managed by the City of Tucson has a balance of approximately \$200,000. This escrow account's primary purpose was to fund the necessary investments to maintain the ADOT owned historic warehouses to allow them to remain standing. Should structural stabilization be

necessary to avoid the demolition of 13 and 15 E Sixth St, these escrow funds should be used for that purpose.

DSNA feels strongly that every avenue should be considered and pursued to save the historic warehouses at 13 and 15 E Sixth St.

Sincerely,

**Sky Jacobs** 

President, Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association

**CC:** Tom Fisher, Tucson Dept. of Transportation (Downtown Links CAC Members), Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Ward 1 Representative Regina Romero, Raul Torres (ADOT)