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Historic and Design Review Commission
1901 S Alamo St
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Re: Case #2016-1587: 639 Mission St. – *King William Historic District*
Certificate of Appropriateness
Solar Panel Installation

Dear HDRC Commissioners,

The King William Association Architectural Advisory Committee met to review the proposed solar panel project for the third time. We have not changed our position that the solar panel sub-array #1 that is clearly visible from Eagleland Drive not be allowed to be installed. The KWA supports the installation of solar energy in our historic neighborhood but only if the installation doesn't detract from the historic character. If the proposed sub-array #1 is allowed to be installed it will set a negative precedent and be detrimental to our efforts to protect and preserve the architectural quality of King William. The City's solar panel installation guidelines encourage the balance of minimizing the visual impact while maximizing the solar benefit. Although most of the solar installation cases we review in King William are able to achieve this balance, this particular case does not. Given this, we endorse the installation of the proposed sub-arrays #2 and #3, but strongly oppose the installation of the 13 panels in sub-array #1.

Additionally the AAC continues to take exception to the staff narrative comment #C citing that south facing solar panels in clear view of the right-of-way is justified because the subject property is on the southern "back" of the King William District. Please consider that structures along the fringes of King William or any other historic neighborhood have an even greater impact on preservation to those who view these structures from the outside. The KWA AAC questions this rationale and begs the question if this same rationale will be applied to all other properties along the other edges in the future allowing further inappropriate integration of newer technologies that compromise the historic character of the King William Historic District.

We strongly recommend that only partial approval be given to this case. We also recommend that the HDRC discuss the inappropriateness of the precedent suggested in staff comment #C regarding their view of properties on the fringes of an historic neighborhood have a somewhat diminished historic value.

Best Regards,

Mickey Conrad, AIA
Chair, Architectural Advisory Committee

Harry Shafer
President, KWA Board of Directors