

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

TO: Mayor via City Secretary

RCA #

SUBJECT: Ordinance approving a Historic Site Tax Exemption for the property in Designated Historic District for the property located at: 630 Columbia St.; which meets the relevant eligibility requirements of Section 44-5 of the Code of Ordinances.

Category #

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Agenda Item#

FROM: (Department or other point of origin):

Origination Date

Agenda Date

Andy Icken
Chief Development Officer

SIGNATURES



Council Districts affected:

C

For additional information contact:

Gwendolyn Tillotson
Ketan Inamdar

Phone: (832) 393-0937
Phone: (832) 393-0840

Date and identification of prior authorizing Council Action:

Ord. No. 2015-967, Res. No. 2011-0015

RECOMMENDATION: (Summary)

That City Council adopt an Ordinance approving Historic Site Tax Exemptions for property in Designated Historic Districts for the property located at: 630 Columbia St.; which meets the relevant eligibility requirements of Section 44-5 of the Code of Ordinances.

Amount of Funding: No funding required.

Finance Budget:

SOURCE OF FUNDING: General Fund Grant Fund Enterprise Fund Other (Specify)

SPECIFIC EXPLANATION:

Section 44-5 of the Code of Ordinances provides an incentive for historic preservation in the form of a tax exemption for historic sites. Prior City Council designation of the property as a contributing structure in a historic district is a prerequisite to granting a historic site tax exemption. The property owner must then demonstrate to the Chief Development Officer that restoration and preservation expenditures were made in an amount equal to at least 25% of appraised value of the improvements and within the time frames prescribed in the Ordinance. The tax exemption amount is then calculated based on the amount spent on restoration, up to 100% of ad valorem taxes that would be owed the following year on the appraised value of improvements only (not land). **The exemption is for a 15-year period but is capped each year at the exemption amount calculated for year one.**

The owner of the following contributing structure in the historic district submitted sworn affidavits that meet the criteria set out in the Code of Ordinances. The table below shows the base value of improvement (pre-restoration), the amount of the restoration investment made by the property owner, the approximate dollar amount of the taxes that will be foregone for the first year based upon the Harris County Appraisal District's 2016 property valuation and the City's current property tax rate, and the estimated maximum amount that would be exempt over 15 years:

Contributing Structure	Historic District	Base Yr. Improvement Value (HCAD)	Total Restoration Expenditure	Estimated Yr. One Exemption	Max. Estimated Exemption over 15 Yr.
630 Columbia St.	Houston Heights South	\$45,094	\$337,011	\$4,717	\$70,750

Since the property has been designated as a contributing structure in a historic district, and meets all other criteria, it is recommended that City Council grant this property the exemption from ad valorem taxation provided under Section 44-5 of the Code of Ordinances.

cc: Marta Crinejo, Agenda Director
Anna Russell, City Secretary
Ronald C. Lewis, City Attorney
Sameera Mahendru, Senior Assistant City Attorney

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION

Finance Department:

Planning & Development Department:

Other Authorization:

Director

Director

