

To Cecilia Rios
10/14/2025

Chair, Historic Design Review Board
City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

Chair Rios-

We, of The Old Santa Fe Association are grateful for the opportunity to speak to you tonight regarding the revisions suggested to our city's planning code, and more specifically, to Chapter 14 of the code where it relates to our historic preservation of Santa Fe's character.

Various members of our Board participated in preliminary discussions regarding the update process of the code. Our understanding was clearly this— that the update process would be taken in two phases:

Phase One, to simply do what could be called “housekeeping” whereby the structure (and not specific content) of the code would be rearranged as necessary to optimize future understanding and interpretation of the code. Specific, substantive “alterations were to be avoided in this phase, such as those including language and content affecting subsequent interpretation going forward.

“Substantive” changes to the code were to be proposed and discussed in the later “Phase Two” of the process of updating the code and not before then.

Those of us collaborating in the process were assured throughout that substantive changes were to be deferred to a later date- during Phase Two of the process.

What we see now, in this submission from City Land Use Department, is in fact, that substantive changes *have already been inserted into the language and content of the code*, which in our mind, is both inappropriate, and hurtful to our code as it relates to historic preservation and our built environment— both existing and prospective, going forward.

The meeting we are in tonight precludes careful consideration of the issues before us, due to restricted time allowed. The document you are considering is much too extensive to assess in a simple meeting such as this. Our understanding though, is that certain provisions and language (or lack therein) deemed threatening to the integrity of the code, are at this point manageable if addressed directly and expediently.

We strongly encourage the Board to reject this version of the code as presented tonight based on concerns which can only be better articulated given ample time to do so. To dismiss these details as capricious would be a mistake, the effects of which will impact our city for generations to come.

Yours,

Edward Archuleta,

Co- Executive Director

The Old Santa Fe Association



THE OLD SANTA FE ASSOCIATION