

Historic District Commission,

I hope this email finds you safe and well. My husband and I have been Corktown residents since 2015. We bought a historic home on Bagley. In the past 5 years we have seen our neighborhood go through many changes. While we are excited to see development in our neighborhood we also would like to express our concerns. Please be advised that my husband has been a remodeler and master carpenter for over 30 years.

When purchasing this home we understood the rules and regulations of being in a historic district. I believe these same rules should also apply to commercial/residential developers.

Townhome Concerns + Ideas

The developer is more interested a modern aesthetic vs fitting into a historic neighborhood. The townhomes on Church need to fit into the landscape of the Corktown houses. The Townhomes are beautiful but as an Artist and Remodeler everything is too matchy matchy which is NOT Corktown. Corktown is made up of houses and businesses with an eclectic look and feel. I suggest the developers make each Townhome have a different brick color or Hardie Board color to let each home have its own aesthetic. Anything to make each one special.

Historic Building Concerns

I find it absolutely ridiculous that there is a plan to demolish an important building in a historic district for a PARKING STRUCTURE! I am beside myself we are even having this conversation. My husband Tony and I have walked around the downtown storage building to assess the structure. It is a very sound structure that can be remodeled. We have seen so many other houses and buildings in a lot worse condition be turned into amazing homes and businesses.

Every business on Michigan Ave. is a restored building and using the Detroit Storage Building for something other than parking should be enforced.

Parking

While the community wants and needs parking, they do not want it at the risk of demolishing a historic building. It is constructed of solid brick. There are so many possibilities for it. Let's be creative!

Corktown is losing the vital fabric of interest to its potential cultural tourism. It is essential to maintain and honor the site, similar to honoring the previous Lion's Ticket Office to be demolished for the Hotel, 90% of the neighborhood's density is gone. And the community is in danger of losing its historic designation if so much of the history is demolished.

Since it was stated that underground parking was too expensive. I would approve the structure being higher to save the Downtown storage building. I find it RIDICULOUS that the comment back from the developers to the residents is that "residents want parking" and that it is too much for them to ask for city variances and may not be "pleasing to the neighbors". Was the question or option proposed to the neighbors? NO. So rather than saying the entire project will be "scrapped", let's come up with a better solution.

I hope you take my feedback with great consideration. It is very important to keep the history of our neighborhood!

Sincerely,

Mindy Huestis + Tony Andreoni

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