



June 8th, 2021

Corktown Historical Society's response: 1628-1650 Bagley street, Erection of four (4) multi-family buildings.

The Corktown Historical Society was made aware of this development last week while reviewing the HDC agenda of upcoming meetings. We want it to be made of note that no known community engagement has occurred on this project. We've spoken to residents of all three block clubs and historical society members and this was the first time learning about the proposed project.

The Corktown Historical Society emailed our members to gain feedback and provide a message to the HDC with comments/concerns/questions. To be clear, the overall response from Corktown Historic District residents are feeling blindsided about this proposal and also concerned that all the letters of support on this project use the same "cookie cutter" verbiage. While we're thoroughly supportive of empty lots being filled and more residents to add to our density, we feel this project fails to connect to the needs/concerns of neighborhood. We've not heard if any effort was made to reach out to Clement Kern Gardens residents as this project will sit directly across the street.

Corktown Historical Member comments:

"I think 3 levels on Bagley doesn't fit in with the existing cottages directly neighboring the site. Even though the brick apartment building next door it's only 2 levels."

"I fail to understand how these buildings connect to being in a historic district. From the scale, material choices and complete removal of any setback allowing a front yard/green space visible from the street."

"This design feels overwhelmingly generic. There're seemingly countless projects that match this throughout the city of Detroit. How are any of these material choices connecting back to the historic district. If I was to present any of these design choices for property updates or create an addition on my property in the historic district, I feel it would be rejected due to the lack of understanding of the rules and guidelines set to protect this neighborhood."

The Corktown Historical Society will **not** share its support on this project as it currently stands. We feel there's a lack of "true" community input that would only enhance this project. We don't understand the material/design choices on this project and how/why it would fit within a historic district. The project lacks knowledge of the neighborhood residents and we feel the neglect of reaching out to Clement Kerns residents is disheartening.

We would happily invite the developers to present this project to the Corktown Historical Society, the East End Corktown Block Club, Central Corktown Block Club, and the Train Station Corktown Block Club. We would be happy to facilitate this meeting to learn more about this project, understand the proposal and help gain community support.

Thank you,
Blake Almstead
President
Corktown Historical Society