
[EXTERNAL] Opposition to the proposed development at 808–8 16 Virginia Park

From Joanne Wolff <mrsjwolff@gmail.com>

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To Historic District Commission (Staff) <hdc@detroitmi.gov>

Dear HDC Commissioners,

We're writing this letter to oppose the current design for the construction propose for 808–8 16 Virginia Park. As long time residents of New Center Commons, first as condo owners in the main housing core (Delaware, Pallister, Bethune boarded by 2nd and 3rd Avenues) and HDVP we've watched this neighborhood struggle with safety and encroachment by developers, who don't understand the significance of a historic community and PARTNERSHIP.

The residents of HistoricVirginia Park are not as opposed to construction as they are to the design of the proposed building. The developer has spent an enormous amount of time and energy trying to gain approval for something that doesn't meet HDC guidelines. Instead, he should simply change the development plans to be consistent with the homes in the neighborhood.

As a true partner, with the best interest of the community in mind, he would not make a bogus safety argument as the reason to proceed with this project. It is the design and his unwillingness to change it that we oppose.

Everyone in this neighborhood is concerned about safety. However, building on a vacant lot will not cure our safety issues. Most of us on the south side of Virginia Park between Woodward and 2nd Avenues back up to at least five apartment buildings. Not a week goes by that the police, fire department or EMS is responding to a situation in one or more of those buildings. There is a lack of parking for residents and guests. There is also inadequate recreational/outdoor space. The design being proposed for 808–816 Virginia Park could pose some of the same problems.

In conclusion, we urge the HDC to continue to deny this application while urging the developer to redesign the building to meet historic district guidelines that would also impact traffic and safety.

Respectfully submitted,

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