

## Jennifer Ross

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**From:** Akosua Barthwell Evans <abevans@barthwellgroup.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2023 1:15 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Ross  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2035 West Boston and 2027 West Boston Blvd.

Dear Ms. Ross:

Thank you for all you and your colleagues do for our City.

I am writing in response to the complaint regarding the exterior lighting of my homes at 2035 West Boston Blvd. and 2027 West Boston Blvd.

For decades, my family has lived at 2035 West Boston Blvd. My parents bought our home in 1950. Approximately two years ago, I purchased 2027 West Boston Blvd. for my son. Throughout the years we have proudly maintained our homes and invested a great of time, energy, and money to do so. Beyond maintaining our homes, we have also contributed to and invested in our neighborhood. Both my mother, and I have served as the president of our block club associations. I am a former board member of the Historic Boston Edison Association. I am proud that we have often received compliments personally and in the public domain regarding the beauty of our homes.

Therefore, I was astonished and extremely disappointed to learn that an anonymous complaint had been given to the Historic Commission about my home.

To prepare to respond to your complaint, I have:

1. Previously submitted the appropriate information/forms (including multiple photos of the lighting) guided by advice from senior executives providing oversight for the DHC .
2. Reviewed federal, state, and local guidelines for historic buildings(e.g., the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation, Michigan Historic District Act, Detroit Municode, Chapter 21). All of these publications indicate that their guidelines regarding this issue are advisory.
3. Hired a research consultant to also review the guidelines referenced above.
4. Consulted with Ms. Jennifer Ross to understand the requirements for a well-prepared response to the complaint.

I installed additional lighting at 2035 West Boston Blvd., because I am a senior citizen who lives alone and who has experienced two home invasions. **I want to feel safe in my home.** The exterior lighting was in place at 2027 West Boston Blvd, when we purchased the property. I had no idea that my exterior lighting was inappropriate for a historic home. Not only does the Historic Boston Edison Association advise neighbors to ensure that the exteriors of our homes are well -lighted, but also many neighbors have lighting which is identical to mine.

If any additional information is needed, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,  
Akosua Barthwell Evans

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