

**From:** [John Nova](#)  
**To:** [Dan Rieden](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Letter to HDC 4218 cortland.  
**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 6:08:08 PM

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The customer wanted to add this letter to the hdc recommendations. I could find a place on the app to attach it. Is it possible you can add it for me please?

Historical District Committee

Dear Members of the Historical District Committee,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally express our organization's hardship concerning the historic property located at [4218 Cortland St](#) located in the Historical Area of "Russell Woods". Our company, Block and Lot Detroit LLC, has embarked on a significant restoration project aimed at revitalizing this once-neglected home, not only for our benefit but for the betterment of the entire community.

The house at 4218 Cortland St had long since lost its charm, becoming an eyesore for many. However, we saw potential where others saw decay. We made a substantial investment of over \$200,000, driven by our vision to restore the neighborhood's former glory. This endeavor has been a labor of love, a commitment to breathe new life into a forgotten part of our community.

Our team has worked tirelessly, engaging local artisans to repair the original brick and woodwork, and enlisting volunteers for cleanup efforts. This has been a communal project, with neighbors coming together to lend their support. As the house transformed, so too did the neighborhood, with increased activity and a renewed sense of pride among residents.

Yet, despite our dedication and hard work, we face challenges that threaten the completion of this important project. The financial burdens of restoration, coupled with unforeseen circumstances, have placed us in a position where we must seek assistance. It is crucial for us to convey that our commitment extends beyond financial investment; it is rooted in our desire to foster community and hope.

Our connection to Detroit is deeply personal. My grandmother Juanita Minton a strong advocate of Detroit history and culture dedicated her time and resources to support the city through SEIU 1199 Union during the Obama administration, emphasizing our family's long-standing commitment to community betterment. Additionally, we are actively involved in non-profit work, including coaching basketball for AAU programs, where we nurture young talent, including a player ranked 11th in his class who has signed with Michigan. Our mission focuses on creating opportunities for first-time Black homeowners, ensuring that the benefits of revitalization reach those who need it most.

We believe that the restoration of 4218 Cortland St represents not just a financial investment but a testament to the resilience of our community. We respectfully ask for your understanding and support as we navigate these hardships, so we can continue to contribute

positively to Detroit's transformation.

Thank you for considering our request. We are hopeful for the opportunity to discuss this matter further and explore potential avenues for support.

Warm regards,

Block and Lot Detroit LLC  
Andre Murray  
A&M Sports Academy (Founder & Co-Director)  
[Andre.Murray@anmsports.net](mailto:Andre.Murray@anmsports.net) (Business)  
[Amurray1484@aol.com](mailto:Amurray1484@aol.com) (Personal)  
[www.anmsportsacademy.com](http://www.anmsportsacademy.com)

Clean Hands For Haiti  
Co-Founder & Co Director  
[www.cleanhandsforhaiti.org](http://www.cleanhandsforhaiti.org)

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