

My Petition to Demolish and Rebuild the Courtyard Apartments

A group of people were standing on the corner of Edinburgh and Waring about four years ago. They were discussing the possibility of restoring the courtyard apartments. I thought, what a good idea, bringing back this complex to life. It was truly run down – deferred maintenance had taken its toll, neglected since the 1980's when we first came to the neighborhood. Anyway, someone was passing around a petition to save the buildings by giving them historic status. They were pushing to convince Councilman Koretz to designate it as an historical monument. I signed, not giving it much thought – no understanding of the true condition of the place, no understanding of the ownership of the property, and certainly without thinking that I was helping to create a derelict property that would be the cause of endless trouble in my neighborhood.

Last month, I stood on the same corner briefly one evening with my petition. Every person I asked was willing to sign in the effort to have the courtyard torn down and replaced by housing. They also had had enough of the worst kinds of problems that you can imagine. I am, and we are, asking you to allow this project to move forward.

This stalemate between the city and the owners of the property is doing none of us any good. It leaves land vacant that could be used for reasonable urban housing. By this time it should be apparent that the owners will not, nor should they, sell the property at a loss. ~~As I understand, some neighbor has offered to buy the property. But, as I also understand, when asked if they would re-build the courtyard, would not agree to that condition as a term of sale, proving the point that even one of those who want preservation is not willing to take on that challenge.~~ One way or the other, the damage being done to the neighborhood in my opinion and the vast majority of neighbors outweighs the needs of those who stand in the way of this project. Let's put this behind us. Let's move on!

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Date: 8-27-19
Submitted in PLWA Committee
Council File No: 15-1518-51
Item No.: 9
Deputy: Communication from
Appellant