On January 16, 2020, the Cultural Heritage Commission transmitted a letter (Weinberg Residence) to the Department of Building and Safety regarding preemptive partial demolition of the Weinberg Residence. The letter requests assistance in preventing unpermitted alterations and demolitions that could negatively impact identified and eligible historic resources as well as structures under consideration for historic cultural monument status.

The letter requests that the Department and Safety to “do everything in its power and duty to enforce provisions of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance to prevent preemptive demolition of properties under consideration for historic designation from occurring again in the future.”

The Cultural Heritage Commission further requested that the Department of Building and Safety work with the Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources, and the City Attorney to develop new penalties for unpermitted demolition or alteration of historic resources to sufficiently deter property owners from considering such actions. The Department of Building and Safety, in consultation with the City Attorney and CAO were instructed by the Council to report on this issue by the adoption on July 31, 2019 of a Motion (O’Farrell-Ryu-Koretz), Council File17-0226-S1).

Unpermitted remodels, additions and demolitions of any structure can have a wide range of negative impacts to the health and welfare of the residents, the public at large and to historic structures and those being considered for Historic Monument Status.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Department of Building and Safety be instructed to report in 30 days with a copy of its response to the Cultural Heritage Commission letter dated January 16, 2020 and the concerns raised relative to code enforcement and preemptive partial demolition of properties under consideration for historic-cultural designation; and report on the penalties that are currently imposed for unpermitted remodels, additions and demolitions of historic and non-historic structures; and provide an explanation of the current permitting requirements and processes for abatement of hazardous materials historic and non-historic structures demolition.

PRESENTED BY: MITCH O’FARRELL PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 13th District Councilmember, 5th District
SECONDED BY: O
FEB 04 2020