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November 30, 2010

Letter to the Editor  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Re. Blocking Progress 11.25.10

Blocking progress? Why should the law not apply to Wave Development?

Our elected representatives thought the five 19th century buildings sought to be demolished by Wave Development were unique enough to the history and heritage of this City to unanimously pass a resolution protecting them (on November 17, 1987; File No. 870085). The buildings have not been significantly altered since that resolution was passed.

To demolish the five 19th century buildings, the law states the developer must meet the guidelines for demolition adopted by the Common Council. As currently submitted to the City's Historic Preservation Commission, the developer's application fails to address or even reference a single one of those guidelines.

The developer's application also fails to conform with the policies and standards of the Downtown Area Comprehensive Plan Update, a plan designed to maximize tax base and job creation that the City spent 18 months on and over 2,500 people participated in developing, that provides "locally designated contributing historic buildings should be retained and redeveloped in accordance with local preservation requirements" (p. 65), and that was unanimously approved by the Common Council and signed by the Mayor just over a month ago (October 21, 2010; File # 100235).

Anna-Marie Opgenorth  
Executive Director  
Historic Milwaukee, Inc.