

**Elmer, Linda**

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**From:** Kole Knueppel <kole.knueppel@stmarcus.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 11:37 AM  
**To:** Owczarski, Jim; Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Objection to Permanent Historic Designation of 140 W Garfield

Dear City Clerk:

I am the Executive Director of St Marcus Ministries at 2215 N. Palmer St, Milwaukee. St Marcus is also the new owner of 124 and 128 W. Garfield, properties immediately adjacent to the property in question.

We are interested in pursuing the purchase of 140 W. Garfield. We are requesting more time to understand any structural concerns with 140 W. Garfield. As a 150 year old organization, we have invested millions of dollars into the neighborhood, and we have a strong reputation for restoring and maintaining historic buildings -- including our current sanctuary building at 2215 N Palmer Street and our recent renovation and restoration of the historic school building at 3129 N 1st Street (the former St Elizabeth's and former Harambee Community School). While we value history, we think it is premature to put a historic designation on a building without truly knowing the structural issues and whether the building can indeed be properly restored.

We ask that the Historic Preservation Commission put a pause on this process to allow us more time to investigate. With a permanent historic designation, the property will likely be less desirable as a potential acquisition and would likely lead to the building falling into further disrepair.

Thanks for your consideration.

Best regards,

Kole Knueppel

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**Kole Knueppel**  
***St Marcus Ministries***  
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*"His compassions never fail. They are new every morning."*