

June 12, 2023

City of Milwaukee – Historic Preservation

Re: 515 W. Historic Mitchell Street

Good afternoon,

Recently I submitted an updated rendering for the project known as Witkowiak Plaza (507-515 W. Historic Mitchell St). The following is a write-up concerning the new design.

In any event, we still wish to move the building at 515 W. Historic Mitchell Street approximately 50 feet to the east to make room for our plaza which will be directly east of our east parking lot at the Witkowiak Funeral Home. After extensive review, we propose the following:

We will construct a new foundation and basement at the building's new location, approximately 50' east of its existing location. After studying the project again in depth and consulting with our contractors, we are requesting that City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation allow us to carefully strip off the entire existing façade of the 515 building, construct an all-new building (exact dimensions as existing) over the new foundation, and then install the entire existing façade on the front of the newly constructed building. The only part of the existing building that has any architectural character and/or historic significance is the front façade. Saving the sides and back of the building would do nothing to insure the historical character of the building. Furthermore, A new building would guarantee structural integrity whereas the "skeleton" of the existing building is marginal at best.

Our other request would be to allow us to use Hardie Plank siding on the new structure. We were allowed to do that on the rehabilitation of our building at 541 W. Historic Street in 2009 (we subsequently received a Cream of the Cream City award in 2010 for that building).

One other note, the assembly hall that was planned to be attached to the rear of the newly placed 515 building is no longer in our plan at this time. The area behind the newly relocated building and plaza will be used for parking.

Please accept this formal request for review at the Historic Preservation meeting on July 10, 2023.

Respectfully,

James N. Witkowiak