

1/6/2022  
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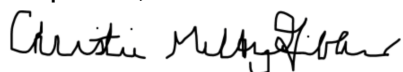
Dear City Clerk of the Common Council,

Thank you for taking time to consider this matter, Jim. At the December 13, 2021 Historic Preservation Commission hearing, our request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for retroactive approval of painted concrete on our home was denied. In September, we had the window frames, front and back doors, and the concrete lintels and concrete slabs on the sides of the house painted. We knew painting brick was not allowed, but we didn't realize that painted concrete was not allowed. At the December 13th hearing, the Historic Preservation Commission granted us 9 months to remove the paint from the concrete. This written request is our formal appeal of the Historic Preservation Commission's decision.

We are requesting to leave the paint on the concrete lintels under our windows and around the sides of the house. They were painted professionally by a local painter in the fall of 2021. We are one of over a dozen homes within a couple blocks on Sherman Boulevard with painted concrete lintels. (In the attached documents, you will see that neighbors within a 2-block radius of our home have not only their lintels, but also their concrete steps, concrete porchs slabs, and concrete planters painted, too). We feel it is unfair to be singled out and told to remove our paint when a critical amount of other homes (and church buildings) are allowed to leave theirs on. We were told in a letter from the Historic Preservation Commission that the painted masonry on our home "is not part of the character of buildings on Sherman Boulevard," yet SO many neighboring houses in fact have their masonry painted.

As artists, we feel that the paint job (which mainly covered our window frames) makes our house look more vibrant and beautiful. Our neighbors love how the new paint looks. It helps the colors of the original stained glass windows to really pop. (Photos attached.) We are also aware that the paint on the concrete does not damage the concrete. In fact, it works to preserve the integrity of the concrete over years of weathering. As full owners of our home (we recently paid off our mortgage), we are here to stay (I run a neighborhood business: Tricklebee Cafe) and we are actively working to keep the house in good shape. Please know that we have no intent of "bucking the system" or being thorns in the Historic Preservation Commission's side. We simply ask that the historic preservation codes be applied **fairly** and **consistently**. Or we ask that these codes be revisited and adapted to current realities, which includes a softening of codes to deem painted concrete as *appropriate* on historic homes, given the prevalence of this practice on Sherman Boulevard. Thank you for the invitation to be heard. We look forward to meeting with you at a future Common Council committee meeting.

Much peace,



Rev. Christie & Mr. David Melby-Gibbons