

October 25, 2021

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Chairman Perez and members of the committee,

My name is Jeremy Ebersole, and I'm the director of the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, a nonprofit organization that works to highlight the many benefits that our city's incredible older buildings can continue to offer to the community, and I'm here to speak in support of this thoughtful and important project and encourage your support of the requested zoning change. The Sts. Peter & Paul School has been a beloved part of the community for generations, but as we all know, it's sat vacant for far too long and continues to be at risk of demolition if action isn't taken to maintain, preserve, and breathe new life into it. We believe this restoration would do just that, sensitively rehabilitating this neighborhood icon so it can continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

If this building were to be demolished, it would dramatically alter the character of the Murray Hill neighborhood and surrounding East Side, which is defined by its historic architecture. This building, in particular, by virtue of its listing on the National Register of Historic Places, is especially significant and important to preserve.

We're comforted by the fact that the project team has a strong knowledge of historic buildings and experience sensitively adapting them. In our conversations with the project team, we believe they are truly passionate about saving this incredible place and working with the community to ensure the end result meets everyone's needs. They understand the historic value of this place and its importance to the community, and by working with the State Historic Preservation Office to utilize Historic Tax Credits, their work would be required to retain the building's character defining architectural features. We trust that the end result would be a rehabilitation of the building that would honor its history while sensitively introducing a compatible new use.

In the end, we cannot let this beautiful and important place continue to deteriorate. It's too important and has too much life left to give. We believe an adaptive reuse would fill the storied halls with vibrancy once again, preserving a significant local landmark, and benefiting the surrounding community. Thus we urge your support of today's request.

Thank you for your service to the people of Milwaukee.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Ebersole
Executive Director