

February 9, 2013

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
2013 FEB 14 AM 11:59
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Milwaukee City Hall
Office of the City Clerk
200 E. Wells St, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Certificate of Appropriateness from HCP for Solar Panels at 929 N. 33rd Street

Dear Mr. Owczarski:

I am writing in response to the letter received from your office regarding solar panels on the roof of the house located at 929 N. 33rd Street, Milwaukee, WI.

I moved into Olde Concordia Neighborhood because it was a historic neighborhood. I grew up in a home similar to the one I now live in, and truly love and appreciate it. I believe in protecting the history that is fast disappearing around us. One of my degrees is in history and I am also a genealogist, so preserving our historic homes is something near and dear to me.

However, our neighborhood is not historically homogenous, but comprised of modern apartment buildings and businesses as well as period homes. There already is, within our "historic neighborhood", pre-existing deviations. And, I would not consider the solar panels a "project", which implies something ongoing, since they have been in place on the roof of this home for some time.

Additionally, I would observe that the panels are not aesthetically offensive in my opinion and I have no objection to them whatsoever. Nor do I believe they "alter" the appearance of any structure (according to the HPC definition) any more than a satellite TV antenna does—and frankly look much better. If one objects to the historic alteration the panels make, *then by that criteria I submit we would have no choice but to also insist on the removal of all the satellite antennas in the neighborhood as well.*

Finally, public policy favors energy efficient home upgrades—providing incentivizing tax credits to encourage this. It is unreasonable and legally questionable for the city and HPC to compel property owners to forgo such credits in order to comply with such strict adherence to a standard that simply never existed in this neighborhood in the first place. If anyone appreciates and understands the desire for historic preservation, it is me. Regardless, the aesthetic impact of the solar panels in question is so negligible as to be non-existent; particularly when compared to the very real need to expand our energy reliance to renewable and more efficient means.

Sincerely,



Mrs. M. McCracken
926 N. 34th Street,
Milwaukee, WI 53208

cc: 