

July 25, 2022

RE: File 211891 - 2422 N Sherman Blvd

Dear Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee,

I live in the Grant Boulevard Historic District, so I drive down Sherman Boulevard quite often. I was extremely shocked and dismayed last October when I saw what happened to the house at 2422 N Sherman! Because I am interested in my neighborhood, I knew that this house was designed by the architect George Zagel. I knew that George Zagel was first a mason, like his father and grandfather. I'm sure they are all spinning in their graves to see this beautiful brown brick house with stone accents now looking like a tarpaper shack.

At an earlier HPC meeting, I learned that preservation experts have no solution for reversing this damage, and I also witnessed how a retroactive COA was narrowly averted. If we are going to continue to have historic districts and abide by the City ordinances pertaining thereto, then I cannot see any universe in which a COA could be issued for this situation. I am sorry that you don't have a better resolution for irreversible damage. Obviously, fines into perpetuity, or hitting the next owner are not good solutions. But neither is a retroactive COA – that's a license to do more. There was no problem with these bricks as they were. Paint or "breathable" stain, no! Not for the whim of anyone, not even Alison Victoria (Windy City Rehab on HGTV).

Two things perturb me almost equally: a) that neighbors aren't even aware of a historic district designation and the COAs that are required; and b) that when they see this example with no consequences, they figure they can go and do likewise. Nothing happens; just claim you didn't know. I don't know what makes most Americans so unaware of architecture, and unable to see what they've got when it's good. But even if they learn only through experience of a bad example, then this is the teaching moment.

Treating a century old house in this way is against the **Zoning** – this should never have happened in a historic district (or anywhere, really). It's very detrimental to the other home values in the **Neighborhood**, and indeed to the whole Sherman Blvd Historic District. It is not good for **Development** if you expect others to come to this area and invest money, thought, and effort in maintaining historic homes. I look now to this committee to help the neighbors and the City to keep this neighborhood up to the standard of its origins, and a place someone would be proud to call home.

Sincerely yours,

Kay Weisman
2750 N Grant Blvd