

## 32° Freemasons

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

## **Valley of Milwaukee**

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The Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center
790 N. Van Buren Street ▲ Milwaukee, WI 53202
▲ wiscottishritemasons.org
414.276.4744

Linda Elmer

Office of the City Clerk

200 East Wells Street

Room 205

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Ms. Elmer:

Re: Temporary Historic Designation Application for Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, 790 North Van Buren Street, Milwaukee

Thank you for notifying us of the upcoming public hearing before the Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission ("HPC") regarding the above-referenced temporary historic designation application for the Humphrey Scottish Rite facility.

As you may be aware, this property is presently under contract for sale to a purchaser who desires to renovate and convert the property into a boutique hotel. The purchaser has been working with HPC staff to arrive at a design for the proposed hotel that is both economically feasible and consistent with historic preservation guidelines. It is our understanding that a temporary historic designation of the property by the HPC will allow the purchaser to procure a certificate of appropriateness from the HPC with respect to the mutually agreed upon renovation plans for the property ("COA"). The issuance of the COA is a precondition to the purchaser's closing the acquisition of the property.

Accordingly, we have no objection to the application for the temporary historic designation, and we do not intend to appear at the February 13, 2017 public hearing. If for some reason the purchaser does not proceed to acquire the property, we reserve our right to appear at any subsequent hearing before the HPC or the Milwaukee Common Council to express our opinion regarding a permanent historic designation of the property (including possibly objecting to such permanent designation).

If you have any questions regarding the position we are taking in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very Truly Yours,

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite A Valley Of Milwaukee
The Fraternity Of Choice

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Robert W. Haggarty, III

Chairman of Trustees

Scottish Rite, Valley of Milwaukee