

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### CHAIR

- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee

### MEMBER

- Public Works
- Steering and Rules Committee



**JOSÉ G. PÉREZ**  
ALDERMAN, 12TH DISTRICT

### MEMBER

- Kinnickinnic River Neighborhood Association
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Commission
- National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
- Walker's Point Association
- Walker Square Neighborhood Association

November 2, 2020

The Honorable,  
Members of the Historic Preservation Commission  
City Hall

Honorable Members,

I write to ask that you not grant temporary or permanent designation to the former Forest Home Library.

As the council member representing the district in which the library was located, and as someone who grew up familiar with it and the surrounding neighborhood, I know the affection and regard in which that building is held. I know many of my neighbors have fond memories of checking out their first book there, of doing school research with the assistance of hard-working librarians, or of just finding quiet time reading. Affection, nostalgia, and memory, however, are not the criteria your honorable body is asked to consider when designating a property as historic. You have great power to limit the manner in which a property may be developed and this must be applied only to those situations that meet very high standards. Every interesting building to which a few have attached consequence or memory cannot be designated historic. Neither your governing ordinance nor common sense permits this.

The Library Board, custodian of our library facilities, has chosen not to re-use the former Forest Home Library building for its intended purpose. Its unique layout and construction are ill-suited to re-purposing. The market has further clarified matters as earlier attempts to sell the property for redevelopment were met with no success. The building is dilapidated and runs the risk of becoming a blighting influence. Anyone with an interest in re-developing the property as it is was offered ample opportunity to do so.

I acknowledge that your ordinance does not admit discussion by you of the relative economic merits of preserving versus demolishing and redeveloping a given property. That task falls to the Common Council. As the chair of the committee to which any permanent designation would be brought, please know that I will work to see this designation denied. The only consequence of granting temporary designation would be an unwarranted delay in the start of a project that promises to be a great benefit to the entire neighborhood and surrounding community.

I thank you for your service and for your consideration.

Should you have questions of me, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose", written over a white background.

José G. Pérez,  
Alderman, 12th District

SI USTED TIENE UNA PREGUNTA O SOLICITA TRADUCCIÓN SOBRE ESTA CARTA, FAVOR DE COMUNICARSE AL 414-286-2861

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