



Denver, CHUN <chun@chundenver.org>

CHUN Inquiry RE: Demolition Notifications & Eligibility

1 message

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods <chun@chundenver.org> Thu, Apr 9, 2020 at 3:03 PM
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To Whom It May Concern:

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, Denver's oldest and largest registered neighborhood organization, has been contacted by neighbors in recent weeks to get our perspective on a number of recent demolition applications under review.

For example, the following have been brought to our attention in recent days:

- 900 E. 1st Ave, Denver
- 777 E. 17th Ave, Denver
- 1763 N. Williams St, Denver

After some deliberation, we are concerned that the City's current policies concerning demolition reviews are not consistent with other guidelines impacting development projects (e.g. community planning and development public hearings, rent enforcement and relief, etc.).

Given Denver's efforts to tackle the current public health crisis before us, it seems appropriate for policymakers to consider the following:

1) In a public health crisis we need to focus on the essential business of caring for our community. Many of our members and neighbors are adjusting to the new normal; the community cannot and does not have the capacity to clearly and thoroughly examine demolition requests at this juncture.

2) Thoughtful decision making requires time, pragmatism, and well constructed responses. It is imperative for interested parties to convene and form the best way forward on a case-by-case basis.

3) Most of the negotiations for demolitions are best done in-person to avoid

assumptions and any miscommunication. These can be highly emotional discussions, and they are best done when all parties can communicate clearly and in person. The COVID-19 pandemic and state/local directives forbidding meetings in person certainly complicates in-person negotiations.

4) The Landmark Preservation Commission typically requires that the designation process go through public hearings and those are cancelled, at the moment. We request that timelines be followed accordingly; if community members apply to save a building through the designation process, what does this look like and how can we ensure a fair, transparent process?

It would seem to be in the City's best interest to "hit pause" on these demolition permits or extend timelines; doing so will enable adequate and proper review once the Mile High City is "up and running again" at full capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of this email and reviewing our inquiry. If we are missing a key detail vis-a-vis processes, please let us know. We look forward to being your partner to craft a balanced, thoughtful approach going forward.

For our beloved city and in good health ...

Travis Leiker

President, Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods

Jessica Caouette & Kevin Kelly

History Matters Committee Members and Co-Chairs

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods

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Preserving the past, improving the present, and planning for the future of Denver's greater Capitol Hill community.

