



**PUBLIC STATEMENT**  
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**PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM CHUN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Tom's Diner Historic Landmark Application & Debate**

Since 1969, Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) has worked tirelessly to preserve Denver's rich legacy and tackle our community's most vexing issues. In recent weeks, the dialogue concerning Tom's Diner--designating it as a historic landmark--caused the CHUN board some concern.

CHUN believes preserving Denver's history is essential to preserving the character and uniqueness of the city. We cannot lose sight of the hard work of Denver's committed, small business owners. Their success and engagement in our neighborhoods are essential components to Denver's economic and cultural vitality. Small business success stories, like that of Tom Messina's, is something to be appreciated and celebrated.

The conversations surrounding Tom's Diner were counterproductive. In a time when political discourse has reached new lows—especially at the national level—we have the opportunity at the local level to be productive and be better neighbors. Our beloved Capitol Hill deserves better.

Yesterday, proponents of the landmark designation withdrew their application. Let this be a learning moment for all. Looking ahead, and when topics like these arise, it is imperative to engage in a thoughtful dialogue with an emphasis on integrating historically significant architecture with new, innovative development. We need to focus on green spaces, mixed uses, and providing sustainable, affordable housing and many other considerations. This was true in

the case of Tom's Diner; it is certainly true when weighing projects where historic preservation and new development seem to be at an impasse.

CHUN expresses gratitude and appreciation for all the civic organizations and individuals for their passionate and expert contributions thus far, and we encourage all members of our community, preservationists and developers alike, to work collectively and engage neighborhood organizations like CHUN to protect historic gems and to shape creative solutions through collaboration and innovation.

Through its History Matters Committee, CHUN will strive to enhance Central Denver's ability to work together on historical and cultural matters. We will be the voice that informs, educates, and partners with the community.

Finally... to the eventual owners of the property (now the site of Tom's Diner), CHUN offers its resources with meeting space and mediators to find those solutions that are a win for property owners and a win for Denver history. Our doors are open, and we are here to help those engaged in these processes going forward—with a renewed spirit of conversation, collaboration, and compromise.

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**ABOUT CAPITOL HILL UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS:** Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (C.H.U.N.) is a registered neighborhood organization and a Colorado nonprofit corporation. Founded in 1969, C.H.U.N. has evolved into one of Denver's oldest, largest, and most influential neighborhood organizations. The organization's mission is *Preserving the Past. Improving the Present. Planning for the Future.* C.H.U.N. strives to accomplish this mission through its emphasis on historic preservation, affordable housing and homelessness, land use and zoning, and public safety. At the foundation of our work is the critical importance of civic participation – that our community becomes healthier and more vibrant through the active involvement of those who live and work in our neighborhoods.