

**From:** [Stu Levitan](#)  
**To:** [Robert Gordon](#); [Heiser-Ertel, Lauren](#)  
**Subject:** Re: State Street house painting disaster  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 1:30:40 PM

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Lauren

Please include this in the Legistar file for tonight's report on 417 State Street.

Thanks,

Stu

On Monday, March 25, 2019, 1:25:48 PM CDT, Robert Gordon <[REDACTED]> wrote:

It is always interesting---at the local, county, state and especially national level---of sudden reactions to things which should have been addressed long ago.

Take this past week, we sadly saw (in person or thanks to media coverage--print and tv) the tacky black paint job of that old sandstone house on State Street which is befitting now of horror house that they made it be.

Last night, NBC15 did a follow-up story with you airing complaints of how bad this was, and, and that you now will try to get State Street to be a historic district.

Oh now, after how man years being on and even chairing the city Landmarks Commission/Committee that you want this to happen? After the fact action, yet again.

But tell me Stu, even if this house was in a designated historic or landmarked district or property, would have at all prevented this mess? If these painters and those who are now in hiding had no regard for current rules or asked UDC permission, what would have prevented them from just painting that house black or bright pink?

These people have disregard for the law, the protocols and most of all the beauty of older buildings, just to do as what they and only they want to do, in their own best interest not caring what others think.

Its shocking that this foreign owner and coffee shop renter did not take all of ten or 20 minutes to walk up and down State Street to see if there are other buildings painted totally black like its a Gothic museum?? None, that we could remember. That should have been a hint for them if the hint of not seeing an once of paint on the house before they painted, as it was never at all painted before.

So, do your reaction motions of historic districts and all, but the minute there were new owners, you and the city should have told them "Congratulations, you're now the

owner 417 State Street. By the way it is a historic house even if there is no city plaque noting it, so take care of it and do not do....(x, y, z) to it." At least they would have gotten a verbal and written warning, if you are/were so concerned for this old house, you should have done a lot more than just come crying in front of tv cameras now that they damn near destroyed the house and now made it look like a fire-victim. Again, if this house is so important to you (and the city) you should have taken reventative motions to protect it. But honestly these foreigners who now come in purchasing buildings don't care what rules or laws and historic value their property is.

Robert Gordon

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