

**From:** Sara Guyer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 27, 2011 3:50 PM  
**To:** Scanlon, Amy  
**Cc:** Scott Straus; Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva  
**Subject:** 209 Prospect

February 27, 2011

Dear Amy Scanlon:

We write in enthusiastic support of the proposal to build a new home at 209 N. Prospect Street. Our backyard abuts the property, and we expect that we are among the neighbors directly affected by the new construction.

We believe that the Sagers have worked exceptionally hard to identify a solution that both meets their family needs and responds to the expectations of the landmarks commission and neighborhood more generally. They have commissioned some of the most sophisticated architects in the state and have been explicit about their desire to preserve trees and green space and build a home that both in scale and intent is in keeping with the neighborhood.

For our part, we are thrilled with the design and excited that they have chosen to build a contemporary, architecturally significant home in our neighborhood. What makes University Heights special is precisely that all of the homes are not identical, but rather represent a century of building styles and a range of sizes and genres. It is in its difference from other homes around it that the Sagers' home will fit the spirit and style of this neighborhood.

While we cannot speak to the issue of where the home will be sited, we think that the Sagers and their home will be a major asset to this neighborhood – and indeed, they already are members of this neighborhood, having lived on Summit Avenue for three years and taken wonderful care of their historic home, which they renovated with real sensitivity. Their track record is proven; their thoughtful approach to building their new home is above and beyond what is expected; and their proposed house will be a welcome addition to University Heights. Our neighborhood needs families like the Sagers in order to thrive.

Finally, a word about the process: we have seen several cases in recent years where the landmarks commission has denied reasonable homeowners the right to build and supported projects that were virtually untenable. In many instances, the process has felt arbitrary and has harmed the neighborhood, even leading families who cared deeply for their homes and property to leave the neighborhood because they could not obtain approval for sensitive additions. We urge you not to make the same mistake with the Sagers. We can't think of a better option for 209 N. Prospect, and we hope that you will approve this project without delay.

Respectfully,  
Sara Guyer and Scott Straus  
210 Lathrop Street