

From: [Scanlon, Amy](#)
To: [Scanlon, Amy](#)
Subject: FW: Yeadon-Clarenbach house
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 12:09:51 PM

From: Michael Billeaux
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 12:00 PM
To: Rummel, Marsha; Scanlon, Amy; David McLean; Stuart Levitan; Jason Fowler; Michael Rosenblum; Christina Slattery; Erica Gehrig
Subject: Yeadon-Clarenbach house

Dear commissioners,

I hope this message finds you doing well and keeping warm. My name is Michael Billeaux, I'm a graduate student in the UW-Madison Sociology Department specializing in historical sociology, and currently serving as the co-president of the UW-Madison Teaching Assistants' Association, the labor union for graduate employees on campus. I am writing to urge you not to relocate the Yeadon-Clarenbach house. You are aware already of the house's significance to Madison's gay rights history. The house also holds added significance for the TAA's history: Our collective bargaining rights had been taken away unilaterally by the UW in 1980, leading to one of the TAA's most high-profile strikes that year. After losing the strike and the right to collectively bargain, the TAA founded a legislative action committee to wage an intense lobbying campaign to pass a law compelling the university to recognize the union. In that capacity, David Clarenbach was one of the most committed advocates of the TAA, contributing years of work to the reinstatement of collective bargaining rights for our union. Finally, in October 1985, with Clarenbach's help, a bargaining rights bill brought the UW back to the bargaining table.

For this reason, the house and its location is important to us. We view it and its place in the Madison landscape as part of the TAA's history. Because we are a workforce with high turnover, our history is very dear to us, and we work hard to preserve it. In light of recent historical developments, which have led for a second time to the loss of bargaining rights for the TAA, the Yeadon-Clarenbach house has gained even deeper meaning for us. Please preserve the house as is, at 123 W. Gilman.

Best regards,
Michael Billeaux

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Co-president
Teaching Assistants' Association - AFT 3220
taa-madison.org

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Department of Sociology