



Board of Directors

Michael Jacob, President	Carl Durocher
Chris Lukas, Vice President	Colleen Hayes
Cheema, JK, Treasurer	Jack Kear
Mike Soref, Secretary	Ralph Kuehn
Karyn Chacon	Lynn Lee
John Coleman	Anne Walker

October 6, 2014

Stuart Levitan, Chair
City of Madison Landmarks Commission

Re: 1018 Williamson St. proposed demolition

Dear Mr. Levitan and members of the Landmarks Commission,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Marquette Neighborhood Association (MNA) Board to express MNA's and its members' concern regarding the demolition of a residential unit at 1018 Williamson Street.

Maintenance of housing - and in particular affordable housing - is key to our neighborhood. It has been highlighted as a priority in multiple neighborhood plans and is viewed as essential for maintenance of the diversity and vitality of our neighborhood. The neighborhood has repeatedly taken the position that demolition of housing should only be the option of last resort.

While there are some structures on Williamson St. that may warrant demolition because of their extreme decay; the house at 1018 Williamson St. is not one of those structures. Neighborhood residents, MNA board members and members of MNA's Preservation and Development Committee have toured the house and are of the strong opinion that the building is structurally sound and should be rehabilitated.

To that end, MNA has been making inquiries as to individuals and groups that may be interested in acquiring this property for rehabilitation as a single family residence. These have included inquiries to Common Wealth Development and Madison Development Corporation, among others.

While the history of this structure under the current owner is not ideal, it is the MNA board's opinion that a history of neglect should not justify demolition of a building that represents early housing in the neighborhood and still has good potential as housing on Williamson St.

We urge the Landmarks Commission to not approve demolition at this time so that opportunities for rehabilitation can be explored.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Jacob, President, Marquette Neighborhood Association