

January 15, 2018

To Washington City Council:

On December 8, 2017, the Historic Preservation Commission received a complete Historic Property Demolition Form for a property covered under City Code Chapter 28.05 Demolition Review.

The property, known historically as the Pennsylvania House, is located at 306 N. Marion Avenue, and is A CONTRIBUTING BUILDING IN THE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (NRHP 2013).

The Commission met on December 8, 2017, and January 15, 2018 to discuss and make a recommendation regarding the application. A quorum was present at both meetings. Andrew Drahota, Dave Waite, and Sandra Johnson were also present.

The Commission, applying the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for identifying historic properties, determined that the building RETAINS its historic status.

The Commission also examined the financial information provided by the applicant, and determined the owner could not receive a reasonable financial return on the property without demolition of the existing building.

The Commission wishes to state that we, as preservationists charged with protecting and preserving Washington's historic resources, are uncomfortable recommending the demolition of any historic building, but must accept the reality of this situation. Further, we have no objection to the proposed project.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends the City Council:

Approve the Application for Demolition of the building at 306 N. Marion Avenue

Reasons:

Although the building remains a contributing building in the district, failure to demolish the building will prevent the owner from receiving a reasonable financial return on the property.

Mary Patterson

Chair, Washington Historic Preservation Commission