

December 10, 2015

Members of the Ann Arbor HDC and Jill Thacher, Staff

Re: 201 Glen – Glen Hotel

Thank you for denying this project at your meeting last month. We are very glad that you upheld the findings by the staff and agree that this project does not meet the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for New Construction in a historic district.

I would encourage you now to reject the Notice to Proceed for the same reasons. It is obvious that whoever will build on this site will be forced to clean up the ground because of its use as a gas station for over 50 years. If their reasoning were followed, the rules for building in a historic district could be suspended. This would lead to the conclusion, then, that any polluted site in a historic district could skirt the historic regulations and requirements for building in the district. It would, in effect, nullify the role of the HDC in such cases. It seems like a not-so-subtle attempt to make an end run around the HDC. This is an important principle of historic district governance and thus the Notice to Proceed should be soundly rejected.

My husband Lars Bjorn and I have lived in the Old Fourth Ward Historic District on Ann Street for over 40 years. We love living here and count on the HDC to approve buildings that will complement the others in the neighborhood. Please reject this Notice to Proceed.

Sincerely,

Susan Wineberg and Lars Bjorn

712 E. Ann St.