

April 13, 2021

Honorable Members of Detroit City Council
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1340
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Honorable Member of Detroit City Council,

My name is Kim Rusinow, I currently own and operate a city tour business, Destination Detroit Tours. As past president of the Detroit Area Art Deco Society (DAADS), a member of the Board of Trustees and Project Coordinator for the Villages Community Development Corporation, VCDC (2008-2011), I felt it was imperative that I write City Council in support for the Parade Company's plan for the Broadhead Armory. As a preservationist I believe in saving old buildings for future generations to appreciate. Hence, when I worked for "The Villages" I applied for and received a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan to fund private security for the Broadhead Armory as part of our Clean and Safe initiative. At that time, the Broadhead was visibility being broken into and stripped by scrappers and attracted vandals on a regular basis. In an attempt to discourage this type of destructive activity and protect the building, I contracted with Dusing Security to add the Broadhead to its daily security rounds to ensure the building was as secure as possible.

The Parade Company, a viable non-profit deeply rooted in tradition in the City of Detroit, has an immediate plan, the desire and capacity to save, protect and to make the Broadhead its new home. Therefore, I feel it's the very best option to partially restore and save what we can of the building and its history. Granted, it's not ideal from a preservation perspective, *but the ideal window to preserve this significant Art Deco building in its entirety closed decades ago.* If we lose our historic buildings, we become just another "cookie cutter city" and we lose the very essence of who we are. I am filled with pride each time I share with visitors our city's rich and colorful history. I particularly like to touch on the adaptive reuse of our historic buildings. We only need to look at the Globe Building restoration project by the DNR to visualize what the Broadhead could mean to the community, art education, the Detroit Riverfront and tourism.

The Broadhead needs the Parade Company and their plan more than ever. Every day the building slips a little further away from being able to be rehabilitated. Waiting is not an option if we intend to save what remains. For more than 75 years, "The Parade" has been part of our culture and a tradition embraced by the community. Preservation is more than just preserving architecture and artifacts, it's also about preserving tradition and culture. I ask the Honorable members of the City Council to vote in favor of the sale of the Broadhead to the Parade Company to ensure they have a fitting home so they can continue to make Detroit proud *and* ensure the Broadhead is here for the community, visitors and future generations to appreciate.

Most Sincerely,



Kim Rusinow

Principal

Destination Detroit Tours