Subject: Historic Brodhead Armory

May 13, 2021

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

Dear Council Members,

When I retired from the Air Force, I moved to Southeast Michigan for employment. I have now retired from that employment and have been volunteering for several organizations. One of my favorites has been the Parade Company. While some of the others have focused on necessities, the Parade Company brings happiness and joy to all. The share this joy with the entire Southeast Michigan community. I have also seen my closed military bases being repurposed for community activities such as Parks and Colleges. I believe that bringing the Parade Company to the Brodhead Armory would bring the joy and pride back to the city.

I support this proposal as the Brodhead Armory would be a perfect place for the Parade Company activities. The current location has been leaking since I started volunteering at the Parade Company in 2006. In addition, they are really pressed for space. The floats and storage for costumes and balloons take up a lot of real estate. The Armory has space that needs some renovation and preservation. This is an opportunity for the city to restore historic buildings and create a creative tie to the future.

This location would also bring many jobs to the Jefferson Avenue area. The artisans and craftspeople that form the artistic backbone of the parade. The tours of the facility bring thousands to the area. The pride that the neighborhood would feel increases hope and happiness. It would bring in veteran's organizations from around the region for their meetings and get-togethers.

I ask you to approve the proposal by the Parade Company for the Brodhead Armory. You could not ask for better tenets. Their artistry and community spirit will revitalize this area.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Thomson
Parade Company Volunteer (12 years)
Major, USAF, Retired

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