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Historic District Commission  
2 Woodward Ave, Suite 808  
Detroit, MI 48226

Subject: Committed and Total Support for Proposed Project at 2108 Burns

Dear Historic District Commission of Detroit,

There is a saying in Indian Village, "Come for the houses, stay for the neighbors," and both parts of this sentence are equally important. People move to Indian Village for the beauty, originality, space, and aesthetics of the homes designed and built by master craftspeople. They stay for the friendships and the community surrounding them. And, just like a friendship that needs to be tended to and respected, these homes require constant maintenance and vigilance. We all signed up for this when we chose to become caretakers during our tenure as owners.

Gary Brownell not only understands the responsibility for his home, but he is equally as thoughtful with his upstanding neighbors. The plans Gary Brownell has proposed for 2108 Burns have been as attentive to details as the original builders, and he has found ways to pay homage to the home's history while preserving the functionality for decades to come.

In my role as the previous Editor of the Indian Village Newsletter and as a current Trustee and Archivist for the non-profit Indian Village Historical Collections, I have the rare vantage of viewing thousands of neighborhood home pictures – from the earliest days to the present. It is still a wonder to see how many houses have been preserved, but there is always a deep sadness at the ones not kindly maintained. A slow crumbling will not be the story for 2108 Burns. Gary Brownell is too dedicated to his community to pass problems onto the next homeowner or alter the historic feel of our neighborhood.

I have only known Gary for a few years, yet, in that time, I have come to deeply admire his honesty, his straightforward nature, and his abiding commitment to the people he respects. His home mimics those values.

I sincerely and unreservedly support the project at 2108 Burns Ave.

If you require any further information or have questions, please feel free to reach out. And thank you for your time and devotion to all the historic neighborhoods in Detroit.

Respectfully,



~ Erica MacKinnon