

Benjamin Buckley

From: Kirk <kirk_handren@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 12:27 PM
To: Historic District Commission (Staff)
Cc: Gary Brownell
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Project at 2018 Burns (Indian Village)

Lawrence K. Handren
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June 9, 2023

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

Subject: Support for Proposed Project at 2018 Burns

Dear HDC Detroit:

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed home improvement project by my neighbor, Gary Brownell, of 2018 Burns Ave.

As a long-time resident of Indian Village, I am fully cognizant of the crucial need for our neighborhood to preserve its historic nature, complying with the applicable historic district regulations. After reviewing the architectural projection for this project, I am favorably impressed with Mr. Brownell's plan and willingness to make the substantial investment its execution will entail, blending consistency with structural and landscaping themes appropriate for the neighborhood.

Besides my Indian Village residency (and being a former Indian Village Association Board Member, and Detroit architecture tour guide for Preservation Detroit), I'd add a perspective that may be somewhat unique. Prior to moving to the Village, I resided in Beverly Hills (Michigan) and like Mr. Brownell, executed a major addition to our residence there. The addition increased the square footage of the residence by approximately forty percent, but required a zoning variance, as it pushed the structure's footprint a few feet closer to the property line than prevailing regulations permitted. That project was completed – without objection from the neighborhood residents. Today, it's virtually impossible to differentiate between the structure's current and former relation to the property line – due to the accompanying landscaping – and the house is probably the most valuable on the street. By ensuring that the property's appearance remained consistent with the elements of style in the area, everyone's property value was maintained or enhanced, and I have no doubt that Mr. Brownell's project will have a similar impact here: in short, an absolute 'win' for the homeowner and neighborhood residents alike.

As a resident who can only benefit from the execution of this project, I'd express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Brownell for his commitment to the community's architectural standards and property values.

Sincerely,

Lawrence K. Handren

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