

Aaron Timlin
487 W Alexandrine St
Detroit MI 48201

July 11, 2023

Detroit Historic District Commission
2 Woodward Avenue
Suite 808
Detroit MI 48226

RE: 477 W Alexandrine - Willis-Selden HD - Establish parking lot

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to establish a commercial parking lot at 477 W Alexandrine, which is next door to my home. I purchased my home at 487 W Alexandrine Street in Spring of 1994. At that time there was a fully occupied historic 4 family building at 477 W Alexandrine Street. The property was eventually purchased by the current owner and the residents were evicted. Years later after the building began to fall into disrepair, according to a text message to me on October 29, 2018, the current owner confirmed that he had the building taken down, apparently without Historic District Commission approval. Now he is asking for approval to "establish a parking lot." Will the Historic Commission now go down in history as the body that turns a blind eye to the demolition of historic buildings only to approve replacing them with parking lots? Would this not make the Commission irrelevant?

There are many reasons I oppose this plan, though I have included my three main reasons in this letter and they are as follows:

1. I now have a 5 year old son who spends much of his outdoor time around the house playing on the sidewalk with his many friends riding bikes, playing ball, visiting the firestation, among other things. The thought of an entrance constructed on that heavily used pedestrian sidewalk for automobiles to enter and exit a commercial parking lot all day and all night without an attendant is horrifying. What about the safety of my son and his friends who are not visible from behind the wheel of a large automobile pulling into or out of a parking lot? Will these drivers be intoxicated after visiting one of the local establishments, or distracted and unaware there are children playing?
2. We need more housing and parks, not more parking lots. There are numerous underutilized public parking lots and garages within a few blocks of 477 W Alexandrine. They are located on blocks that are predominantly commercial, not residential like ours.
3. People slamming doors, turning on headlights, talking at all hours of the night from a parking lot only a few feet from where my son and I sleep is not appealing and should not be permitted in my residential neighborhood.

I respectfully request that you deny this request to establish a parking lot at 477 W Alexandrine, and encourage the owner to either follow through on his previous plans to construct a residential dwelling, or turn the lot into a much needed park.

Sincerely,

Aaron Timlin
Owner/Occupant
487 W Alexandrine Street