

November 8, 2023

Re: Schapp Center

Dear Detroit Historic Commissioners,

As a 45-year resident of Jefferson/Chalmers 200 block of Lakewood St. and 15-year block club captain who has participated in many of the civic organizations in this area I would like to share my support for the Schapp Center.

Numerous businesses located on E. Jefferson have closed including: CVS, Parkway Market (our grocery store), Wendy's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell, the nearest Rite-Aid, Norma G's restaurant (which Jefferson East worked so hard to develop and support) and I read the Busted Bra shop is moving. There simply is not much to attract people to our commercial properties. As a result, our commercial district is populated by many vacant and blighted buildings. In fact, the entire adjacent block's commercial properties are vacant and blighted.

I believe the Schapp Center would provide Jefferson/Chalmers residents benefits culturally, commercially, and financially (increased property values and perhaps employment).

During a recent forum at Jefferson East one resident took a vindictive and obstructionist posture regarding this project. While he may have an ax to grind, I do not believe obstruction is in the best interest of the Jefferson/Chalmers residents.

Thank you for considering my perspective,

Tom Mercier