



**Motion to Contribute \$1,000 for Attorney's Fees to Save the OTR Davis Furniture Historic Buildings**

Whereas, the Davis Furniture buildings, 1119 – 1123 Main Street, have been designated as contributing historic structures in the Over the Rhine Historic District; and

Whereas, the buildings are at a key Over the Rhine gateway location on Main Street; and

Whereas, the buildings are salvageable yet the new owner has asked the Historic Conservation Board (HCB) to allow the new owner to demolish the buildings; and

Whereas, on February 21, 2014 the Over the Rhine Community Council (OTRCC) joined other community groups (e.g., the Over the Rhine Foundation {OTRF}) and unanimously adopted a motion to oppose the demolition of the Davis Furniture buildings; and

Whereas, On August 25, 2014, the OTRCC unanimously adopted a motion that the OTRCC and the OTRF enter into an agreement whereby the strengths of the two organizations would be combined to continue to oppose the proposed Davis Furniture buildings demolition; and

Whereas, after a lengthy public hearing, where the foundation and community council were represented by an attorney (paid for by the OTRF), the HCB rejected the proposal to demolish the buildings; and

Whereas, the owner appealed that decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and the ZBA, after a lengthy public hearing, rejected the demolition proposal; and

Whereas, the owner appealed the ZBA's decision to the Court of Common Pleas and, if successful, this appeal has the potential to set a new, lower standard of protection for the historic buildings in our neighborhood, ; and

Whereas, the OTRCC wishes to raise \$5,000 to hire an attorney to represent the interests of the community council and foundation; and

Whereas, the OTRCC has received private pledges of at least \$2,200 and the OTRCC, based upon a motion passed by the board of trustees, determines that the OTRCC should make a contribution of \$1,000 to the share the attorney's costs to help save the Davis Furniture buildings.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the OTRCC ratifies the June 22, 2015 motion of the board of trustees that the OTRCC contribute \$1,000 to pay attorney's fees needed to represent the communities' interests before the Court of Common Pleas.

Adopted July 27, 2015.

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Attest: Joan Kaup, OTRCC Secretary