

January 28, 2021

Lucia M. Aguirre, Chairwoman, Historic Review Commission
Department of City Planning
200 Ross St., 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

RE: 204 Tennyson Ave. Schenley Farms Historic District

Dear Chairwoman Aguirre and Members of the Historic Review Commission,

Oakland Planning and Development Corporation (OPDC) is a community-based organization whose mission is to build a better Oakland and help neighbors thrive. OPDC, in partnership with the Oakland community members and stakeholders, steward implementation of *The Oakland 2025 Master Plan: A Vision for Sustainable Living and Mobility*. As Oakland's Registered Community Organization, we communicate development proposals to the public and host Development Activities Meetings to ensure community input.

On November 24, 2020, OPDC facilitated a Development Activities Meeting regarding this matter before the HRC. Thirty-eight people attended through Zoom and Facebook Live. At this meeting, Mr. Wang presented plans for the renovation of the garage on his property at 204 Tennyson Ave. The garage, at the rear of the site, was in bad shape when Mr. Wang and his wife purchased the property. Mr. Wang stated that he started renovations before he was aware of the Historic Review Commission review procedures. He stopped after the city contacted him about missing permits and is now going through the formal procedures. He shared that he plans to renovate the interior. He provided images of the exterior with two windows and a white door on the front façade of the garage.

Meeting attendees voiced concern that the renovation work is architecturally inconsistent with the main building, thus compromising the historic district's standards. OPDC has corresponded with Schenley Farms Civic Association, who remain concerned that the exterior renovation does not comport to the historic district guidelines. While not under the purview of the HRC, OPDC will note that meeting attendees expressed concerns about zoning use violations in terms of the use of the garage and violations of the city's occupancy of the main house, and Mr. Wang assured them that he is aware of and in compliance with the city's occupancy code in terms of the occupancy of the main house.

Sincerely,



Wanda E. Wilson, Executive Director

We build a better Oakland and help neighbors thrive.

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