



1900 Market Street – F1 8 – Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-546-6719

www.centercityresidents.org

centercity@centercityresidents.org

June 9, 2020

To: Philadelphia Historic Commission
Bob Thomas, Chair
Jon Farnham, Executive Director

From: Center City Residents Association (CCRA)

Re: Support for 1810 Chestnut St.
Support Agenda June 12, 2020

We are writing in support of the former Freeman's Auction House Building, 1810 Chestnut Street, which is on the Consent Agenda of the Commission's Architectural Committee having been approved by that Committee at its May 26th, 2020 meeting.

A Task Force appointed by CCRA and including representation for the Preservation Alliance met several times with the developer and architect to discuss and review plans for this project. We would like to point out that this is a "by right" project with no formal requirements for collaboration with community groups. CCRA has developed and successfully used a process for collaborating with developers and their architects to provide an opportunity for community representatives to share concerns and perspectives about projects being proposed in our neighborhood. To date, we feel that this process has been a successful strategy for allowing developers to respond to the community and create designs that enhance and contribute positively to our neighborhood.

CCRA supports this project which will add a tower to the existing Freeman's building without significantly altering the visual streetscape and by retaining historical features of the present building. Our task force recognizes the ways in which the developer and architect have responded to community concerns and, more importantly, have respected the historical and architectural features of this building which has been an integral piece of the 1800 block of Chestnut Street for many years.

Sincerely,

Maggie Mund
President, CCRA

Board of Directors

President: Margaret Mund

Executive Vice President: Donna Cordner

Vice Presidents: Phillipa Campbell • Barbara Halpern • Charles Robin • Robin Sweet

Secretary: Richard Gross • Assistant Secretary: Lauren O'Donnell

Treasurer: Matthew Schreck • Assistant Treasurer: Paul Rathblott

Directors: Guy Aiman • Michael Bowman • Jeff Braff • Elena Cappella • Paula C. Buonomo • Michele Ettinger • Matthew Fontana • Kate Federico • Richard Frey • Matthew Fontana • Charles Goodwin • Ayanna Haskins • Stephen Huntington • Amy Jared • Susan Kahn • Douglas Mellor • Harvey Ostroff • Nathaniel Parks • Nan Robinson • Paul Rathblott • David Rose • Dawn Willis • Ben Zuckerman