

Hadi and Julie Gharios
Virelo Apartments
467 West Alexandrine Street
Detroit, MI 48201

March 12, 2024

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

To Whom it May Concern,

We own the Virelo Apartment building at 467 West Alexandrine Street and we strongly object to the proposed commercial surface parking lot at 477 West Alexandrine Street. There are already far too many surface parking lots scarring the neighborhood. Another is neither needed, nor welcomed. The Willis-Selden Historic District was created to protect the diverse architecture of the remaining historic structures in Midtown; allowing a commercial surface parking lot wedged between two centennial buildings is abhorrent.

Even if applicant agrees to the Historic Commission's recommended revisions regarding footprint, true brick vs. façade, greater complexity in roofline, canopy and porch projections etc...we don't believe the proposed **building** will ever be

completed. The obvious objective of applicant is the parking lot, and the parking lot alone. Insisting that the project needs to be done in two phases, with the building not begun until 2025 shows what the priority is. Applicant indicates that the “parking (sic) and building will be submitted for permit plan review under one permit”, but that is no guarantee that both will be done. It seems likely that the parking lot will be completed and open to the public and the four- unit apartment building will be forgotten. It’s quite possible that the applicant agrees with the adage “It’s easier to ask forgiveness than it is to get permission”.

We urge you to reject these revised proposals. The applicant showed blatant disregard for the Historic District when he allowed the historic apartment building at 477 West Alexandrine Street to fall into disrepair and ruin until he was forced to demolish it. Please don’t reward his previous bad faith by letting him desecrate our historic block with a commercial surface parking lot.

The proposed project will **not** enhance our historic street and district, but will be a blight on the neighborhood, lowering property values and desirability, especially at 467 and 487 West Alexandrine Street.

Sincerely,

Hadi Gharios

Julie Gharios