

7.3 (a)

Hello

Please add this as a communication to this Wednesday's Council Meeting, in regards to Jamesville City Housing Property.

To the Mayor, Council Members and City Housing Staff,

10 years. Let that sink in. That is how long North End residents have had to endure the lack-lustre level of attention the City has given to maintaining its very own derelict, vacant property. This has been worse in recent years. I think we all know what a liability this building is to the City and what an eyesore it is for anyone visiting our restored waterfront. I appreciate the humility of CHH, who has owned up to doing a poor job of maintaining the property and have committed to continued attention, yet it is important to explore how we got here.

I happen to live near Jamesville, therefore thankful for the recent scrutiny and media attention it has received. This has resulted in what I hope to be imminent, positive changes. Though the Ward 2 Councillor has taken credit for being the impetus for this long overdue maintenance of property standards; this is misinformation at its finest. This has come as a direct result of residents advocating on behalf of the community, with a small dose of social media shaming.

Considering our Ward 2 Councillor sits on the board of Directors for CHH; he has been well aware of the deplorable conditions during his tenure. A chain of 30 emails over a 3 month period should not be required to get the lawn mowed-ONCE, as was the case last year; the weeds were 2 stories tall.

Your own website states "graffiti vandalism creates a nuisance that can adversely affect property values, business opportunities and poses a risk to the health, safety and welfare of a community." If this is the case, why has there been no attempts to mitigate it over the last few years. The Mayor, the Ward 2 Councillor, MLE, Public Works and the GM of Healthy and Safe Communities were all made aware of the site conditions, yet no changes were made.

When a large fire occurred December 2024, an email was sent (and ignored) again, regarding the lack of security of the windows and doors, resulting in ongoing trespassing for illegal, nefarious activity. There has been no overt attempt at securing the property.

If history is any indication, development is a long way off. Please do right by the North End and raze this building, sooner than later. What is the city doing to facilitate demolition? Please explain for the public record, how or why the CN appeal prohibits the demolition. North End residents deserve to know.

Ward 2 Community Advocate,
Kelly Oucharek