



EAST Village ASSOCIATION

May 3, 2016

Glenn Angel
Assistant Corporation Counsel
City of Chicago

Re: Case No.: 08 M1 400688
The City of Chicago v. Archdiocese of Chicago
St. Boniface Church – 905 North Noble St.

Dear Mr. Angel:

The East Village Association writes this letter in support of a 75-day continuance in the matter with Case Number 2008-M1-400688.

The St. Boniface parish and school were a vibrant part of our community for 130 years. The Henry Schlacks-designed Romanesque building served countless thousands of German and Polish immigrants, many of whom still live within the neighborhood. Even after its closure, the structure remains an anchor within the community and a landmark clearly visible from outside it.

For the past seventeen years, the East Village Association has actively advocated for the preservation and reuse of St. Boniface Church. Our organization, along with several others, recognized many unmet community needs that could be satisfied by the reuse of this extraordinary building. These included a public library branch, a community center, private housing, high quality senior housing and a school of music. We are confident that with the right combination of vision, financing and people, a winning solution will be found. In the meantime we vehemently oppose any efforts to demolish the building.

Seven years ago, under the imminent threat of the wrecker's ball, there appeared to be hope. The City of Chicago brokered an agreement between the Archdiocese of Chicago, and Institutional Project Management, to redevelop the property as senior housing. This was consistent with our recognition that large numbers of senior citizens in our area face challenges, including fixed incomes, limited mobility and gentrification pressure, as they age within our community. Alas, although the low-income housing tax credits upon which the project relied were not made available, hope is not lost, and our energy and enthusiasm remains high.

The East Village Association believes adaptive reuse should be considered in plans to develop the property. We understand proposals for adaptive reuse are being discussed, and a 75-day continuance would allow sufficient time for a formal proposal to emerge from these discussions. The East Village Association strongly supports the preservation of St. Boniface Church. We continue to support the neighbors in the search for a way to return this architecturally and historically significant building to service. We will succeed, and when we do, we will not only have saved a local landmark but perhaps we will have created a model that can be replicated in many other areas where vacant churches wait to contribute once again to the communities that surround them.



EAST *Village* ASSOCIATION

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Johnson, President
East Village Association

cc: Honorable Judge George F. Scully, Jr.
Counsel of Record