

Manayunk Neighborhood Council, PO Box 4667, Philadelphia, PA 19127

www.ManayunkCouncil.org 215-482-5528



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June 10, 2005

The Honorable Michael Nutter
City Council
Room 404, City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: 3 Rector Street; Labov Building

Dear Councilman Nutter,

I appreciated your call to let us know you were supporting the demolition of the 1880's mill building to make way for 17 apartments. I sincerely hope you will reconsider your decision and support the community on this issue.

At the tow path lighting ceremony on April 29th, you indicated to me, in passing, that you supported the proposed project. At that point, We had only heard rumors as to the proposed project and had not seen any plans or presentations.

The developers attended our June 1st meeting. The clear consensus among the neighbors and several architect professionals at the meeting and others we consulted outside the meeting, is that the loss of the mill building would be significant loss to the community and to the historic character of Main Street.

I don't believe an argument can be made that replacing the building with 17 apartments will do any of the following.

- Enhance the historic look and feel of Main Street.
- Enhance the experience of tow path users or future canal users.
- Enhance the retail or restaurant experience on Main Street.
- Reduce late night problems on Main Street.
- With respect to the 500 to 700 apartments or condos built or being built, will provide detectable benefit to the city.

The building presents a unique opportunity to integrate the Main Street retail, commercial, and restaurant activity with the tow path and canal.

I respectfully request that you reconsider your position on this building and put Main Street and the Manayunk community first.

I also respectfully request that you respond to us formally describing your position and why you support the demolition. Please include us in any future correspondence regarding this project.

Kevin Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Smith', written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with some loops and flourishes.

President