



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

GEORGE J. PROAKIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

May 28, 2019

Broadway Investment Inc, LLC
154 Broadway
Somerville, MA 02145

Richard G. Di Girolamo
424 Broadway
Somerville, MA 02145

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

2019 MAY 28 P 3:28

Re: Demolition of 152-154 & 156-158 Broadway HPC 2019.007 & HPC 2019.009 **Determined Significant: 4/16/2019**
Determined Preferably Preserved: 5/21/2019

Sirs,

At the public hearing on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to determine the wood-framed structures at **152-154 & 156-158 Broadway** 'Preferably Preserved.' Per Section 4.2.D of the Demolition Review Ordinance 2003-05, "If the Commission determines that the demolition of the significant building or structure would be detrimental to the architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social heritage of the City, such building or structure shall be considered a Preferably Preserved building or structure." The Commission found demolition detrimental to the City.

This type of wood-frame house is a frequent form of workers housing found in eastern Somerville. It retains its original form, detail and massing. The property is emblematic of the hard-working immigrants who made ends meet anyway they could including renting space to boarders.

The Commission found **152-154 Broadway** and **156-158 Broadway** importantly associated with the Charles & Stark Davis families through 1910 and the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City. Stark Davis dealt in fancy hardware with a shop in downtown Boston

The period of significance for **152-154** and **156-158 Broadway** begins in the last quarter of the 19th century as home to the Charles and Stark Davis families, as well as base for numerous blue-collar renters who were associated with the railroads or commuted to Boston.

The subject buildings are found historically and architecturally significant in the context of a group of buildings and as examples of Second Empire style homes and to be importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth. The subject buildings are found importantly associated with the Charles & Stark Davis families through 1910 and the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City.

Upon a determination of Preferably Preserved, in accordance with Section 4.5, "the Building Inspector may issue a demolition permit at any time, upon receipt of written advice from the Commission that there



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is no reasonable likelihood that either the owner or some other person or group is willing to purchase, preserve, rehabilitate or restore such building or structure.”

With this determination, the 9-month demolition delay period commenced on January 27, 2016. During this 9-month period, the Applicant and/or Agents thereof are *expected* to meet with members of the Commission and Preservation Staff to work through alternatives to demolition and/or work on redevelopment proposals. Please contact the Preservation Staff through the Planning Office to commit to these meetings. These meetings occur the first Thursday evening of every month.

Please contact me at (617) 625-6600 x 2525 with questions regarding this determination or if there is interest in participating in the Public Meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Krist' Chase".

Kristenna P. Chase
Preservation Planner, Planning Division
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development

Cc: Paul Nonni, Sr. Building Inspector, Inspectional Services Division
George Proakis, Director, Planning Division
J. Brandon Wilson, Executive Director, Historic Preservation Commission
John Long, City Clerk