

Public comment received by the Philadelphia Historical Commission regarding the application for 1810 Chestnut Street





June 9, 2020

To: Philadelphia Historic Commission

Bob Thomas, Chair

Jon Farnham, Executive Director

From: Center City Residents Association (CCRA)

Re: Support for 1810 Chestnut St.

Support Agenda June 12, 2020

We are writing in support of the former Freeman's Auction House Building, 1810 Chestnut Street, which is on the Consent Agenda of the Commission's Architectural Committee having been approved by that Committee at its May 26th, 2020 meeting.

A Task Force appointed by CCRA and including representation for the Preservation Alliance met several times with the developer and architect to discuss and review plans for this project. We would like to point out that this is a "by right" project with no formal requirements for collaboration with community groups. CCRA has developed and successfully used a process for collaborating with developers and their architects to provide an opportunity for community representatives to share concerns and perspectives about projects being proposed in our neighborhood. To date, we feel that this process has been a successful strategy for allowing developers to respond to the community and create designs that enhance and contribute positively to our neighborhood.

CCRA supports this project which will add a tower to the existing Freeman's building without significantly altering the visual streetscape and by retaining historical features of the present building. Our task force recognizes the ways in which the developer and architect have responded to community concerns and, more importantly, have respected the historical and architectural features of this building which has been an integral piece of the 1800 block of Chestnut Street for many years.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

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