

September 20, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Jonathan Farnham Ph.D.
Executive Director
Philadelphia Historical Commission
Philadelphia, PA

Re: Nomination of Little Flower High School, 1001 W. Luzerne Street (“Little Flower”)

Dear Dr. Farnham:

On behalf of my client, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, I am writing to formally express our opposition to the nomination of Little Flower for designation to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

The Nomination, filed by a layperson who lacks the knowledge and expertise to opine on the subject, is filled with inaccuracies. For instance, the nomination suggests a strong connection with Cardinal Dougherty and St. Therese, when in fact Cardinal Dougherty was simply the Archbishop at the time the school was built, and St. Therese was just who the school was named after. Such connections are tenuous, at best.

We also believe that the Nomination’s claims of architectural distinction are overstated. The building is relatively plain in style, and does not offer a distinctive example of an important architectural style. Furthermore, the Dagit & Sons firm that designed the school was better known for its earlier church buildings, especially St. Francis deSales in West Philadelphia, which was designed well before Little Flower, while Henry Dagit was still alive.

We agree that Little Flower is an important part of the local community, but this has little to do with the school building and everything to do with the long-term commitment by the Archdiocese to affordable education for girls in Philadelphia.

The Archdiocese has cared for the Little Flower school building very well over the years, maintaining it in good condition. An historic designation is certainly not required to protect the building from neglect or disrepair.

Jonathan Farnham Ph.D.

Page 2

The Little Flower nomination is one of a series of unfounded nominations from a single prolific layperson, placing an undue burden on the Archdiocese. We respectfully request that the Historical Commission recognize this unsubstantiated, unnecessary nomination for what it is, and reject it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AP Forte". The signature is written in a cursive, slanted style.

Anthony P. Forte

Cc: Suzanne Hueston, Archdiocese of Philadelphia