

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR 708 SANSOM STREET



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Comments for the Meeting of the Architectural Committee of the Philadelphia Historical Commission, scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2024

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) has participated in several community Zooms with the developer, and last week a delegation from SHCA met with the developer in its office to have a small group discussion. While we are supportive of a large residential tower, we agree with the Staff opinion about massing, size and scale, especially as the application is seeking zoning approvals from the Zoning Board for FAR and for above-ground parking. As to the issues within the Commission's jurisdiction, we have concerns about the following aspects of the exterior design:

1. Relationship with corner historic building.

Challenge: the current design disrespects the corner building.

Possible better approaches:

- a. Add architectural consistency on one or both sides, esp. at cornice line
- b. Change the color of the surrounding areas to contrast and “frame” the corner building.
- c. Create visual separation from new tower.

Visualization of some of the possible ideas:



2. Appearance of entry and lower floors at 7th Street

Challenges: Design is too cacophonous. Both RCOs and a CDR member described the canopy entry as “awkward,” and encouraged a redesign. Overall, there is an insufficient sense of entry.

Possible answers:

- a. Show the canopy going inside.
- b. Raise the height of the entry.
- c. Stronger vertical beams framing entry.
- d. Move pedestrian access to Sansom Street.

Visualization of some of the possible ideas:



We plan to participate in the public comment period during the meeting, and might offer additional ideas at that time.

*Submitted by
Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee
Society Hill Civic Association
3/22/24*

Our Committee is comprised of: Paul Boni (Chair), Rick Herskovitz, Lorna Katz Lawson, Judy Neiswander, Bill Jantsch, Robert Kramer, Norm Lieberman, Rosanne Loesch, Sally Smith, Larry Spector, and Mary Tracy.