

February 23, 2021

**Media Release re: proposed demo of Odd Fellows Building**

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**NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING & PRESERVATION**

**Topic: Metro Council's Review of Odd Fellows Building Landmark Designation**

**Time / Where: 12:15 pm / 211 W. Muhammad Ali (in front of Odd Fellows Building)**

A press conference will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 12:15 pm, at 211 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. in front of the historic Odd Fellows Building to discuss its proposed demolition. The Metro Council Planning & Zoning Committee plans to review the landmark designation of the building next Tuesday, March 2.

The Odd Fellows Building is a HISTORIC, structurally-sound building that must be protected from demolition. If Council overturns this landmarking, then the city's Landmark ordinance will be rendered irrelevant.

Omni Hotel, which is requesting that the city demolish this distinctive structure, has not proposed any recent replacement project. Omni proposed a project in 2019 but has not mentioned it in 2021. The city's contract with Omni requires a development proposal before demolition, but this has not happened as of now. Thus, this site will become another vacant open space, of which downtown Louisville has plenty. If Omni does not want to renovate or incorporate this beautiful structure into a new development, then it should be sold.

The Louisville Historical League, Vital Sites, and Neighborhood Planning & Preservation urge all concerned citizens to contact their council representatives to voice their opposition to this demolition. We should be strengthening downtown and spending our scarce funds on road improvements and neighborhood revitalization efforts, instead of using of tax-payer dollars to demolish buildings and make downtown less attractive.

**Let's make Louisville a better place in which to live and visit by saving the historic Odd Fellows Building.**

*Vital Sites provides solutions to encourage investment in and development of historic properties, creating value in Louisville's neighborhoods.. Vital Sites is a resource for financial assistance, technical expertise, and policy solutions. Our website is [www.VitalSites.org](http://www.VitalSites.org). Follow us on social media at @VitalSites.*

*Neighborhood, Planning & Preservation has advocated for Metro neighborhoods since 2003. Due process, governmental transparency & accountability for all issues affecting the quality of life in Louisville's neighborhood requires our collective awareness and mutual support. It is up to ALL of us to plan for and protect the community we all call home. We can be contacted by email at [nppkentuckiana@gmail.com](mailto:nppkentuckiana@gmail.com)*

*The Louisville Historical League is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and preservation of our cultural heritage and historic environment in the Louisville metropolitan area. The League can be contacted via our email address at 'LouHist@Hotmail.com', or write c/o P.O. Box 6061, Louisville, Kentucky 40206. Our website is 'www.LouisvilleHistoricalLeague.ORG'.*