

## Naples Historical Society

May 19, 2017

Honorable Mayor Barnett  
Naples City Council  
City Hall  
735 8<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Naples, FL 34102

Dear Mayor Barnett:

Naples Historical Society appreciates the time afforded to us for the Naples Historic District Initiative. As with any substantial effort, getting “there” takes time and effort.

As you know, Naples Historical Society has, for several years and without taxpayer expense, researched, interviewed, and corresponded with individuals and agencies connected to historic preservation in Florida. More importantly, the Society has discovered, interpreted and has taken positions stemming from these erudite exchanges.

Since the first City Council presentation in April, 2016, the Society has gently, and publicly, noted that subject-matter misinterpretations exist locally about historic preservation. These misinterpretations spring primarily from community residents, the ACE industry (architects, contractors, engineers), and City staff.

While we believe we have clarified several items, there are at least five (5) outstanding issues where the Society still needs to reach an understanding with City staff. Those have been outlined in emails from this week. The most recent concern regards the City’s sending a “notice to homeowners in the historic district about the opportunity to register their structures on the list of recognized structures.” Roger Reinke made this statement during C&C at the 5/17/17 regular City Council meeting.

We absolutely believe notice should be given to residents of the Naples Historic District, but we have a different position on the topic of that notice. Sending “notice” to ask for registration as described above:

1. Is a moot point since District properties are already state and federally approved and on the National Register list.
2. May generate unnecessary and hasty misinterpretations of private property rights infringement. We recommend not losing the momentum we have created. Please keep in mind that the reasoning behind the Naples Historic District Initiative is to encourage property owners/new buyers to preserve their historic structures by making the restoration process simple and relatively speedy.

We suggest the City “send notice” to the District’s property owners to feature the project’s proposition, noting that it will be formally heard by City Council on xyz date, once that is established. That notice should be clear to indicate this is a voluntary project.

To the best of our knowledge and research, there is nothing in state or federal regulations that requires a local Ordinance noting a local inventory list declaring each property address.

It appears a local list via Ordinance was created in Naples by Naples years ago\*. The State of Florida wants the transfer of authority application package to refer to the National Register list. Removing the City Ordinance that calls for a local list will render greater simplicity and a more fiscally prudent approach to historic preservation in Naples.

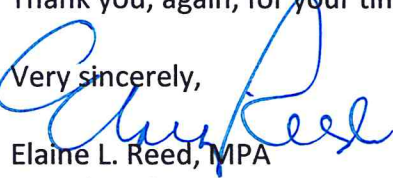
Mayor Barnett, you asked me two years ago to do my best to work this project as a collaborative effort between the City and the Society; I have worked hard along with my Board of Directors, Membership, many community residents, and myriad experts all over the State to do just that.

We respectfully request to be an included participant in this process as it moves forward. We feel our knowledge of historic preservation, as well as that from the experts we have cultivated along the way, holds enormous value. We understand that the “regulated should not regulate,” but neither should the misinformed. If handled casually, the entire Naples Historic District Initiative could backfire.

My Board Chairman, Denny Glass, and fellow Board Member, Darrin Phillips, look forward to meeting with you to express our sincerity and desire to lend our thinking to the project rollout and move forward productively, together.

Thank you, again, for your time and consideration.

Very sincerely,



Elaine L. Reed, MPA  
President & CEO

cc: Vice Mayor Penniman  
Members of Naples City Council  
Denny Glass, Board Chairman, Naples Historical Society, Inc.  
Darrin Phillips, Member of the Board, Naples Historical Society, Inc.

\*Since we have a National Register-approved list of structures in an historic district, Chapter 12 of the Florida Building Code will allow Naples to follow #2 for the definition of historic houses receiving substantial improvement exemption rather than #3, which did call for a local list approved by an Ordinance.