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**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 4:08 PM

**To:** 'Bill Barnett' <mayorbill@naplesgov.com>; 'Reg Buxton' <RBuxton@naplesgov.com>; 'Terry Hutchison' <THutchison@naplesgov.com>; 'Michelle McLeod' <MMcLeod@naplesgov.com>; gprice@naplesgov.com; 'Ellen Seigel' <ESeigel@naplesgov.com>

**Cc:** 'Charles Chapman' <CChapman@naplesgov.com>

**Subject:** Thank You : Big Problem Still

TO:

Mayor Barnett

Members of Naples City Council

cc: Charles Chapman, City Manager

Thank you for your unanimous support yesterday of the historic house rehabilitation plans for two houses in the Naples Historic District. With so few historic contributing structures in the District these days, saving what we can is a critical component to maintaining the charm and character of Naples. And, doing so with SHPO/NFIP support is a big plus.

While we are delighted with the yesterday's outcome, my note is to let you know that we are encountering problems with **95 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**.

The owner is making minimal changes to his house. Fortunately, his plans for the main house and the guest house have both been approved by SHPO. See the two attached official letters. Of course, this approval indicates exemption from the NFIP floodplain requirements due to its historic status.

It came to my attention today that a City of Naples staff person told the homeowner's agent, Bob Parent, that he could NOT rehabilitate the front porch as proposed and approved by SHPO. This is a problem.

Perhaps the staff member will "recommend a denial" as we heard yesterday, but Mr. Parent interpreted it as "You cannot do that." That's when I got a few phone calls. The homeowner's team doesn't know if the project is going to be on a forthcoming Agenda or if it's dead. There is no clarity.

The process endorsed by the Society is seen in the *Six Steps To Get You There!* document. I didn't attach it to this email because I've attached it too many times already.

Can we please finalize this process and remove the impediment to rehabilitating historic structures? If not, then can we ensure that architects and contractors KNOW that they should call the Society first? We will clarify the process. The Society is fortunate that the homeowner called me this time; there have been many times that a homeowner felt his only option was to tear down a house. We know that because we've seen that over the last decade plus.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,

Elaine L. Reed, MPA

President & CEO

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Educational HQ: Historic Palm Cottage™ built in 1895 and located at 137 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, near the Naples Pier

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