

July 12, 2021

Christine Mondor, Chair, City of Pittsburgh Planning Commission
Department of City Planning
Via electronic mail

RE: DCP-ZDR-2021-06286 – 3401 Bates Street

Dear Chairwoman Mondor and Members of the Planning Commission:

I submit testimony on behalf of Oakland Planning and Development Corporation (OPDC), a community-based organization whose mission is to build a better Oakland and help neighbors thrive. Fundamental to our work is communicating to the public about development proposals and hosting public meetings to discuss plans and proposals. We are also the Registered Community Organization for the four Oakland neighborhoods.

Walnut Capital requested a Development Activities Meeting (DAM) in mid-June 2021; they stated they planned to purchase and demolish the condemned row houses in the 3400 block of Bates Street. Jon Kamin presented on behalf of Walnut Capital at an OPDC DAM on June 24, 2021. Neighbors in attendance inquired about the project timeline, maintenance of the property, and future plans for the site at the DAM. Residents support the proposed demolition.

The row houses on Bates Street are a prominent eyesore. Their blighted, deteriorating condition has been a safety hazard for our community for years. OPDC supports the demolition of these buildings as soon as possible.

Meeting notes (including community feedback), the meeting recording, and project slides are archived on the project page at www.opdc.org.

Sincerely,



Wanda E. Wilson
Executive Director