



the PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
of *CENTRAL NEW YORK*

August 5, 2008

Honorable Matthew Driscoll, Mayor
City of Syracuse
City Hall / East Washington Street
Syracuse, New York 13202

Re: 1100 East Genesee Street / Syracuse, New York

Dear Mayor Driscoll:

The Preservation Association has received the attached letter from Ruth Pierpont, Director of the Field Services Bureau at the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation regarding the property at 1100 East Genesee, currently under review by the Planning Commission for Project Site Review.

The letter, in short, says that until such a time as funding sources have been determined it would be inappropriate for involved parties (i.e. the City of Syracuse) to permit any work which would preclude the SHPO from commenting on the project.

PACNY is asking that the City of Syracuse formally request information in writing from Ronald McDonald House of Central New York regarding all sources of public funds that they have sought to date for this project including but not limited to earmarks, member items, and SUNY funds. PACNY's understanding is that RMH has approached at least two separate sources of public funds which could trigger NYS Section 14.09 under the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980. The City must require full disclosure of funding from RMH for the project prior to voting on the Project Site Review.

Please note that the Kingsley True House was (and remains) determined as "National Register eligible" through the NYSOPRHP. NYS Section 14.09 "requires State agencies to consult with the [OPRHP] commissioner if it appears that any project which is being planned may or will cause any change, beneficial or adverse, in the quality of any historic, architectural, archeological or cultural property ...". 14.09 also requires "agencies... to avoid or mitigate adverse ..., to fully explore all feasible and prudent alternatives and to give due consideration to feasible and prudent plans" This project cannot have a segmented review.

With Syracuse's recent designation as Preserve America Community we need leadership on this issue. The City needs to demonstrate their commitment to preserving our historic assets.

Sincerely,

Samuel D. Gruber, President

cc:

Congressman James Walsh
Hon. David Valesky
Hon. Joan Christiansen
Hon. William Magnarelli

Commissioner David Michel
Commissioner Fernando Ortiz
City of Syracuse Corp. Council
City Planning Commission

Syr. Landmark Preservation Board
Heather Lamendola, Zoning
Dr. David R. Smith SUNY Upstate
Syracuse Common Council