

Demolition Comments from Jesse Cornett, Lents Neighborhood Association

While I Chair the Lents Neighborhood Association, we have not considered this issue so this opinion is mine alone and not that of our Board or General Membership. It is, however, based on our experience in dealing with this issue.

Recently, we were notified of a pending demolition and our Board had the opportunity to request a delay. At the meeting to discuss the issue, the property owner promised to work with the neighborhood to consider options for the property before demolishing his building. Since there was no tool for us to use but to delay the inevitable, we agreed to not request a delay in the hopes the property owner would keep his word.

Eight days later, he demolished the building.

I would encourage the committee to go one of two ways – either provide meaningful notification and input for neighbors, or end wasteful courtesy notifications with no teeth. The current system simply provides another box on the outreach checklist and wastes everyone's time and energy.

I am happy to further discuss my perspective with any committee member or city official if there are any questions.

My best,

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Jesse Cornett