

JUN 20 2025

CITY CLERK

Edwards,Michelle

From: Tiffani Lewis <tiffanislewis@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 7:56 AM
To: Nation,Todd; Azar, George; DeBaun,Curtis; Boland,Tammy; Hinton,Kandace; Thompson,Amanda; Loudermilk,Cheryl; Edwards,Michelle; outside email
Subject: EXTERNAL -General Ordinance No. 2, 2025 (Historic Preservation)

****External Email. - Think Before You Click**** --
Help Desk

Council President Todd Nation
Members of the Terre Haute Common Council
Mayor Brandon C. Sakbun
City of Terre Haute
17 Harding Avenue
Terre Haute, IN 47807

June 20, 2025

Re: Please vote YES on General Ordinance No. 2, 2025 (Historic Preservation)

Dear President Nation, Council Members, and Mayor Sakbun,

The first time I stepped onto the deep, latticed porch of 1006 South Center Street—a Victorian raised in the 1890s—I ran my hand across the wavy-glass sidelights and felt time press back. My grandfather, a San Francisco architect, taught me that architecture is memory you can touch. From him I learned stewardship, not ownership.

Because I shuttle to California for work, I often return to Terre Haute with a traveler's fresh eyes. Each homecoming, the uninterrupted run of Victorian, Italianate, and Craftsman façades reads like an open-air history book. Let even a few pages be torn out by demolition or careless infill and the story breaks mid-sentence.

Isn't it our shared duty to protect these historic neighborhoods—to honor the past by safeguarding it for future generations? General Ordinance No. 2, 2025 is the practical way to fulfill that duty. Stewardship that works

Purpose with real teeth. The ordinance affirms that historic preservation enriches education, culture, property values, tourism, and civic pride. It keeps established neighborhoods from losing the very distinctiveness that anchors them.

Focused guardrails—not red tape. Only exterior work visible from the street requires a Certificate of Appropriateness, and the review window is capped at 30 days. Interiors remain private, routine maintenance stays simple, and investment keeps flowing.

Late one evening, I stripped a century of paint from my porch balustrade and uncovered glowing old-growth pine—hand-cut, mortise-and-tenon joinery still tight after 130 years. Moments like that remind me we never truly *own* these houses; we merely hold history in trust. Passing this ordinance honors that trust city-wide.

Returns you can measure—and some you can only feel

Across the country, homes in local historic districts outpace their markets by 5–20 percent in value appreciation. Yet numbers alone can't capture the lift you feel when amber light spills through a stained-glass transom or when a passer-by pauses to admire a carved corbel. Those intangibles are the soul of Terre Haute—and they are irreplaceable.

On **July 10** and again on **August 7**, you have the chance to choose continuity over convenience, anchoring our city's future to its best past. Please cast a *YES* vote for General Ordinance No. 2, 2025, and ensure the next caretaker can feel the same quiet awe when they turn a historic key in a historic lock.

Sincerely,

Tiffani Lewis
tiffanislewis@gmail.com | (310) 882-1315