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Edwards,Michelle

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From: Marissa Northam <marissanortham07@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 1:28 PM
To: Edwards,Michelle
Subject: EXTERNAL -Please forward to council members

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Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance *Alongside* Property Maintenance Reform

Dear Members of the Terre Haute City Council,

As a resident and advocate for the protection of our city's heritage, I am writing to urge your **full support for the Historic Preservation Ordinance** that will be considered alongside General Ordinance 3 at your upcoming meeting.

The Mayor's proposed updates to the Property Maintenance Code are important. They will strengthen standards, improve public safety, and give the city better tools to address code violations across all neighborhoods. I support those goals.

However, they are not enough.

The Property Maintenance Ordinance focuses on **health, safety, and sanitation** — not on **preserving the architectural, cultural, and historical value** of Terre Haute's oldest neighborhoods. That work must be addressed through the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Without meaningful historic zoning protections, neighborhoods like Farrington's Grove — already under pressure from absentee landlords, group homes, and demolition threats — will continue to lose the distinct character that defines them. Beauty, craftsmanship, and community identity will give way to short-term fixes and long-term damage.

The Historic Preservation Ordinance ensures that:

- Historic homes and buildings are protected with clear, fair standards;
- Any changes or new construction are in harmony with the district;
- Property owners have guidance and support to preserve architectural integrity;
- The city fosters tourism, civic pride, and responsible development.

Passing one ordinance without the other would leave a critical gap in our ability to protect Terre Haute's legacy. I urge you to recognize that public safety and preservation are not opposing goals — they are complementary.

Please vote **yes** on the Historic Preservation Ordinance CO2 and show that Terre Haute is committed not only to safe buildings, but to preserving the soul and story of its neighborhoods for the next hundred years.

With appreciation,
Marissa Northam

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