

September 18, 2018

**UNITED TO
SAVE THE
MISSION**

Historical Preservation Commission
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: 2018-006347DES - 449 14th Street Landmark Designation

Dear President Wolfram and Historical Preservation Commissioners-

We are writing in regard to the owner initiated Landmark Designation of the Welsh Presbyterian Church located at 449 14th Street in the Northeast Mission District. United to Save the Mission's Community Development Committee agrees that this modest, neighborhood church that has served the community since the reconstruction of the Northeast Mission deserves Landmark status and should be a protected resource.

At the same time, we have been deeply concerned that construction work was done to this historical resource without oversight by the HPC and that an illegal change of use occurred. We were alarmed that the owners disregarded the historical status of the building and sought to skirt the planning process and neighborhood notification. It is critical that those who build and open businesses in our neighborhood are respectful to the existing community, it's culture and touchstones to the past, especially in this time of crisis.

For the past 116 years, this has been the site of community congregation hosting religious and cultural events with it's doors open to all community members who would seek to find respite, inspiration and fellowship within its walls. While we support the Landmark Designation, we do not accept the designation as a pretense to erecting an exclusive, luxury club at this location. United to Save the Mission will oppose any such an attempt unless an equitable agreement outcome is achieved in a manner similar to other project agreements throughout the Mission.

The Mission Community requests that Landmark Designation should be contingent on this remaining a community serving space with equitable access to all and that such an agreement should be made between the owners of this landmark and members of the Mission Community.

Larisa Pedroncelli and Kelly Hill
United to Save the Mission Community Development Committee

cc: Supervisor Rafael Mandelman
Kyle Smeallie, Legislative Aide to Rafael Mandelman

