

January 26, 2004

Alderman Mary Ann Smith
5533 N. Broadway
Chicago IL 60640

Dear Mary Ann:

At its last meeting the Edgewater Historical Society Board directed that I write and urge you on behalf of the Society to introduce an ordinance establishing a moratorium on the issuance of demolition permits for *residential* properties in the Kenmore Winthrop area. The purpose of the moratorium is allow a period of protection for the remaining single family homes and two flats while we as community attempt to develop a strategy to protect them from destruction or at least reduce the economic incentive to tear them down. We leave the period of the moratorium to you. It should be long enough to as to afford us the time to develop the strategy but not be so long as to be viewed as unreasonable. A time period of 4 to 6 months would appear to be reasonable.

We understand that the Edgewater Community Council Board also voted to recommend that you introduce such an ordinance. And we also understand that the Edgewater Uptown Builders Association voted against any moratorium. We find this position of EUBA rather curious as most of the members of EUBA are owners of large apartment buildings and are not builders and thus would not be directly affected by such a moratorium. We ask that you take this into consideration in making your decision.

Finally, we understand that Tom Smith when he spoke to the task force which you assembled said that no moratorium has ever passed city council. While this obviously is not the most encouraging of news, we would emphasize two things: (1) he did not say it was unconstitutional; and (2) you yourself have said on many

occasions that we in the 48th ward have done things that others never thought possible. This is another opportunity to demonstrate the 48th ward innovative approach.

Finally, we would emphasize that the concept of the moratorium was one that you yourself proposed at our first meeting.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Gemperle

cc: Marge Britton, 48th ward office
Edgewater Community Council
Edgewater neighborhood associations
Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois
Preservation Chicago
Chicago Landmarks Commission