June 3, 2020

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street, Rm. 451
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Members of City Council,

On behalf of Historic Denver, I would like to offer our support of landmark designation for the Howard Mortuary building at 4345 W. 46th Ave.

The building was constructed in 1959 from a design by the prominent architect, J. Roger Musick, to satisfy a need for a funeral home closer to the families of the Northwest Denver, Berkeley neighborhood.

In June, 2019 the owner of the property since 1971, Service Corp. International (SCI), applied for a demolition permit of the building with the understanding that a local developer would purchase and develop the property after its demolition. After both informal and formal discussions in the neighborhood, an organization by the name of Historic Berkeley Regis (HBR) with the backing of their supporters filed an application for local landmark status in response to the public posting of the demolition request.

The purpose of the demolition review process is to provide consideration for buildings of merit, and to encourage collaborative efforts toward solutions. Soon after the initial designation application was submitted, a mediation was convened through the assistance of Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval’s office and with the participation of Historic Denver, and included the potential developer and Historic Berkeley Regis. As a result of the mediation, the group ultimately agreed to a pause in the process and a preservation minded buyer came forward to meet the needs of the owner and initial developer, and to commit to the preservation of the chapel. GM Development is the preservation-minded buyer, and they are demonstrating their commitment to preservation by submitting this application.

Historic Denver strives to be a partner and collaborator with both neighborhoods and property owners. We are delighted that discussions here brought about compromise and collective planning that will achieve the goals outlined in the Landmark Ordinance.

Thank you all for your consideration and for supporting this designation application.

Sincerely,

John P. Olson
Deputy Director, Historic Denver, Inc.