

## **Bobbie Walthall**

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**From:** liane eisenbart <leisenbart@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2015 11:02 AM  
**To:** Mike Amyx; Leslie Soden; Stuart Boley; Matthew Herbert; Lisa Larsen  
**Cc:** Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** Regarding 1231 Pennsylvania St

Dearest City Commissioners,

I'm writing to you regarding 1231 Pennsylvania, item number five on your Regular Agenda Items tonight, the home of Leon Kimball. I'm his neighbor there immediately to the north. We've corresponded on this matter before.

Just as last time Leon's place came before the City Commission, I have motherly duties to attend to this evening that trump City meetings. New York School's Cocoa, Cookies, and Book Exchange must come before civic engagement. And just as before, my opinions on 1231 remain mostly unchanged.

In the years that I've lived next door, I have always found Leon to be a good neighbor and his home and habits to be unproblematic for me. I believe in live and let live, and Leon's way of living has fostered no critters or smells to interfere with my own living, and he is a generous, gentle man I'm glad to live next to. The issues with 1231 Pennsylvania are well known to all – there's a lot of what you or I might call junk, and the home is in disrepair. The issues are known, but your task as Commissioners is to find a solution.

What to do about 1231 Pennsylvania?

Should Leon sell 1231 Pennsylvania and allow someone else to clean up the lot? Would a major developer buy it and build another neighborhood McMansion, meaning higher property taxes and less sustainable housing for me and my neighbors? (There's a can of worms. Sorry.) Would the City buy it for its minimal worth, less the cost of remediation, and leave Leon, an old man nearing the end of his working days, destitute without the benefit of profit from his investment? And where would Leon go? Could the house be repaired to the point that Leon could live there unharassed for the rest of his days? If that were the solution, would he then continue to be capable of living alone and caring for himself?

I do have one idea that I think may be feasible and beneficial to Leon. Would it be possible for the City to broker a deal with a builder, such as Studio 804 (who has now, with little regard for affordable housing in my very low income area, built two \$300,000+ houses within a block of my home. There's that can of worms again.) or Tenants to Homeowners or some such to clear the lot and build a tiny, very efficient, self-sustaining home for Leon to live in? (I swear I'll never say a bad thing about Studio 804 again if they did a thing like that for my friend.) Perhaps Leon would qualify for HOME funds. Perhaps his status as a veteran could come into play. Just an idea.

I'm afraid I don't really know what would be best done about 1231 Pennsylvania and the way in which Leon Kimball wishes, and has the right to, live. I don't have any real answers for this difficult decision you all have to make. But I do know one thing: the "Action" suggested in yesterday's published agenda (I see the text has changed today from yesterday) to raze the property and charge Leon for

the cost is absolutely not the preferred solution. I'm sure you know that solution is just ridiculous. Invoke eminent domain, tear down his home, and then charge him for the cost? Absurd. (That's probably why the text has changed.)

I saw Leon walking on my way to work this morning, bareheaded, limping just slightly, and I think he needs three things: A hat. I'll knit him one; to not be charged for his own persecution; and more time, and more minds to get together and think and talk about the best possible outcome for him and his home.

What also remains unchanged from the last time discussion on 1231 Pennsylvania came before you is that Leon has a lot of supporters, people who care about him and are willing to help him in whatever way we can. I can, myself, offer space in my yard to stage any construction for Leon's benefit. Workers can use my water and electricity too. Whatever I can offer, an effort to help Leon can have.

And I think I have a thick, warm red yarn that will compliment Leon's white hair and brown skin nicely. He can have that too.

Thanks for your time.  
Lane Eisenbart  
1229 Pennsylvania St