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Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 11:50 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel; Elsen, Nikki; Acklin, Tim
Subject: Historic Preservation & ADA Compliance Can Coexist

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Dear City Leaders,

My name is David Riel. My wife Tiffany and I live at 1107 Caledonia Street, and from 2017 to 2023, I served this city as a Commissioner with the La Crosse Heritage Preservation Commission. For six years, I volunteered my time to educate the public and preserve the best of our city. As a Commissioner, I've reviewed historic assets being remodeled that triggered ADA compliance such as the Memorial Pool renovation, so I'd like to respond to some of the statements made at the August 5th J&A meeting.

At the J&A meeting, architect Marcus Zettler told you that International Building Codes state there should be two water fountains in a public space - one at standing height, and one at wheelchair height. An example of this can be seen in the La Crosse Regional Airport, which was remodeled in 2016. There are two sets of bubblers in the terminal (one at standing height, and one at wheelchair height). There are also two bathroom stalls (one for people who stand, and one for people in wheelchairs). In fact, there are examples like this all around us. Keep these examples in mind while you consider that **33 of your constituents** either appeared in-person at City Hall, or emailed you in support of preserving the historic bubblers as functional bubblers.

To be clear, your constituents do not want the bubblers preserved as flower pots or placed in a museum. Your constituents want you to add ADA compliant bubblers near the historic ones, following the IBC standards seen in facilities like La Crosse Regional Airport. Will this cost more money than getting rid of them? Yes. But so did preserving the Memorial Pool on Campbell Road. This is what your constituents are demanding of you: work with the City Engineers, Torrance Casting and your constituents to determine the most cost-effective solution to preserve the bubblers.

Your constituents are not asking you to "preserve them all for the sake of preservation." All of the bubblers that were designated historic in 2001 should be preserved because they all met the threshold for landmark status established by city ordinances. Historic preservation does not get in our way - it enriches our city and makes us unique. Your job is not to arbitrarily pick-and-choose which historic bubblers you feel should remain. There are ordinances that govern this, and more than anything, you should set a good example by following our pre-existing rules.

In 1966, the U.S. Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act into law. This Federal law is the basis for La Crosse's historic preservation ordinances and allows for historic objects to be repaired or have similar parts replaced without undermining their historic designation. In fact, we want to repair and preserve these objects because

they're important. The National Historic Preservation Act also tasked the Wisconsin Historical Society with overseeing statewide preservation efforts and providing training to local Heritage Preservation Commissions like ours.

According to the Wisconsin Historical Society "When the ADA law was passed, Congress established alternative requirements for properties that cannot be made accessible without 'threatening or destroying' their historical significance." The ADA does not require the City of La Crosse to remove the historic bubblers, it merely encourages you to pair them with ADA compliant bubblers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-David Riel & Tiffany Trimmer-