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August 27, 2013

City of La Crosse Clerk  
400 La Crosse St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601



Dear Ms. Elsen,

This letter is to request for us to be put on the agenda of the up-coming J & A committee in regard to the house and garage we rent at 514 Mississippi Street. We recently found out that it is not registered with the city as a rental and that due to a moratorium, we now need a waiver in order to register it. This was a surprise to us since it has been inspected by the city three times since 2001 along with duplex and triplex we rent out next door. We received a letter to pay the \$10 fire inspection fee but never anything about a \$150 registration fee.

This single family home has been a rental for over 113 years. Shirley's family owned the property since 1856. The house was moved to 514 Mississippi Street before 1895 in order to build the Tausche Hardware building where Fayze's restaurant is located now. Shirley's great-grandparents, grandparents and later her parents took care of this property and rented it for decades. There is a nice couple living there now that has rented it from us for 11 years. They plant flowers and mow the lawn even though they aren't required to. Their lease doesn't expire until August of 2014. We have added insulation, put on a new roof, replaced concrete walks, put on new fiber cement board siding, replaced the furnace, painted the garage door, built a railing for the back steps and trimmed the tree all in the last ten years.

Dan retired from his job two years ago counting on having income from this property to pay bills. If we sell this property we will lose a lot of money since when we got it the cost basis was very low. We would pay a lot of money in taxes. If they grant this waiver it will not unduly affect the integrity of the study or the purposes for which it was enacted. It will allow this house to continue to be occupied and be well taken care of instead of sitting empty.

Sincerely,

*Daniel C. Abts, Shirley A. Abts*

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