

Resolution No. _____

A Resolution Regarding the Demolition of the Jensen-Byrd Building

Whereas the Jensen-Byrd Building, which was designed by architect Albert Held in 1909 and stands on East Main Street, at Pine, at the junction of Downtown Spokane and the University District, has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, is one of the largest historic buildings in Downtown Spokane and is currently vacant; and

whereas the Spokane Downtown Plan (a portion of the Comprehensive Plan) repeatedly highlights Spokane's historic buildings as among Downtown's key "assets to leverage," and specifically notes that "the need and desire for added density must be balanced with the historic character and livability Spokane residents value so much" (*Downtown Plan*, "Executive Summary," p. ix); and

whereas the "Strategic Master Plan" of the University District, a planning initiative of which Washington State University is both a financial partner and board member, highlights historic preservation as a "Core Planning Principle," and notes that in Spokane, historic preservation projects "...have been catalysts for additional public and private investments, creating a vibrant environment that is making news regionally and nationally"; and

whereas in October 2012 Spokane will host the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in acknowledgement of Spokane's commitment to historic preservation as an integral part of economic revitalization; and

whereas the aforementioned one-week event will bring an estimated 2,000 leading preservation professionals to Spokane (source: National Trust for Historic Preservation), inject about \$5.5 million into the local economy (source: Spokane Convention and Visitors Bureau), and focus national attention on historic preservation issues in Spokane; and

whereas many of the benefits of historic rehabilitation projects are long term and widespread throughout the local economy; and

whereas on December 14, 2011 Washington State University announced approval of the sale of the Jensen-Byrd Building to the Austin, Texas-based company Campus Advantage for the purpose of demolition of the building and construction of high-density student housing on the site, and

whereas there is open space available in the University District for the Campus Advantage project; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPOKANE that the Council hereby expresses its desire that Washington State University and Campus Advantage reconsider their plans to demolish the Jensen-Byrd Building, and to develop in its place a plan that renovates the building and returns it to service as a productive part of the Downtown economy.

Adopted this ____ day of February, 2012.

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Assistant City Attorney