

Williams, Gretchen - City Council

From: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 11:54 AM
To: Williams, Gretchen - City Council
Subject: FW: Please reject the application for historic designation for Gates

Another one.



Jeanne Robb
Denver City Council District 10
720-337-7710 Phone | 720-337-7717
Jeanne.Robb@denvergov.org

From: Richard Taylor [<mailto:rtaylor1802@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 09, 2012 10:29 AM
To: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10; Lopez, Paul D. - City Council Dist #3; Shepherd, Susan K. - City Council District 1; Lehmann, Peggy A. - City Council Dist #4; Susman, Mary Beth - City Council
Subject: Please reject the application for historic designation for Gates

Dear Land Use Committee Members,

Pasted below is a copy of a letter I sent last month to the Landmark Preservation Commission. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Rick Taylor

Barbara Stocklin-Steely
Principal Planner – Historic Preservation

August 12, 2012

Dear Ms. Stocklin-Steely,

I am writing to express my concern about the designation of the Gates factory as an historic landmark. I am a near life-long resident of the Denver Metro area and a 26-year resident of the Athmar Park neighborhood. For years I have been excited about the possibility of redevelopment at the Gates site.

The historic significance of the Gates plant is not lost on me. My father did not work for Gates, but he worked for one of Gates' suppliers and the business relationship helped him provide a comfortable middle-class lifestyle for my family. When I purchased my Athmar Park home in 1986, many of my neighbors were Gates employees, most of them former employees as the factory was winding down operations. I had the pleasure of meeting elderly men too old to serve in the armed forces during World War II and women who contributed to the war effort by working long hours at the plant. They told me stories of life on the home front and their pride in producing the materials that led to the defeat of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

The fortunes of the Athmar Park neighborhood and the Gates site are one. The subdivision where I live was built to house workers at the Gates plant and other factories during the war and other subdivisions were built after the war to house veterans and their families; many of whom worked at Gates when it converted to peacetime production. When the Cherokee Corporation began planning for the redevelopment of the site, they

invited representatives from the neighborhood to meet with them on a regular basis so the neighborhood could have a voice in the planning and be informed of timelines for environmental remediation and construction. There was excitement in the neighborhood over the redevelopment. Some people looked forward to new entertainment and dining venues, some to retail closer to home and others to the employment opportunities the new site would provide. The project came to a halt as a victim of the recession at a time when we suffered from a high unemployment/under-employment rate and a high number of foreclosures.

The Gates factory building played a role in my neighborhood's development, but its day has passed. The Gates site and its redevelopment are vital for the neighborhood's future. The application for historic landmark designation, if approved, will deny neighbors important opportunities. Many neighbors work in the construction trades and are now unemployed or under employed and they would benefit from opportunities created from demolition, environmental remediation and site preparation. Homeowners now underwater on their mortgages will see a brighter future with a quality redevelopment at that site.

I understand the importance of historic preservation. As a child, I thought the Moffat mansion on Grant Street was the coolest looking house in the world. I once worked in the old Central Bank building. I was sorry to see those structures go, but I do not feel the same way about the Gates factory building. If the building is left standing, what will be the economic benefit to the neighboring communities? Who will pay for its upkeep? Will the environmental remediation ever be completed? The Gates plant provided economic benefits to previous generations; a redeveloped Gates site will provide economic benefits to current and future generations. I urge that the application for historic landmark designation be rejected.

Sincerely,

Richard Taylor
559 S. Bryant Street
Denver, CO 80219
303-922-5916

Williams, Gretchen - City Council

From: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 11:50 AM
To: Williams, Gretchen - City Council
Subject: FW: Gates historic designation issue

For cmte.



Jeanne Robb
Denver City Council District 10
720-337-7710 Phone | 720-337-7717
Jeanne.Robb@denvergov.org

From: Debi [<mailto:debi321@juno.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 11:41 AM
To: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10; Montero, Judy H. - City Council District #9; Lopez, Paul D. - City Council Dist #3; Shepherd, Susan K. - City Council District 1; Lehmann, Peggy A. - City Council Dist #4; Susman, Mary Beth - City Council
Subject: Gates historic designation issue

Good day.

I have lived in Athmar Park for 33 years. I have watched the Gates facilities decline, become a trash heap and then begin the road to redevelopment.

I strongly urge the Denver City Council to seriously consider the decision of the the Landmark Preservation Commission as a guide. The site is environmentally contaminated and the remaining structures are not safe for redevelopment or retention on site. There is nothing of historic value (beyond, perhaps, the water tower) that remains on the location. We, in the adjacent neighborhood of Athmar Park, would like to see this mess cleaned out and replaced with useful, viable structures and spaces that can be used, lived in and enjoyed.

Thank you,

Debi Drewes

701 S. Alcott St.

Denver, CO 80219

Woman is 53 But Looks 25

Mom reveals 1 simple wrinkle trick that has angered doctors...
ConsumerLifestyleMag.com