



7/22/2022

Mr. Keith Wood
Chairperson, Aiken Municipal Development Committee
214 Park Ave. SW
Aiken, SC 29801

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am contacting you as the chairperson of the AMDC which owns the Hotel Aiken on behalf of the members of the Historic Aiken Foundation. The mission of the HAF is to encourage the protection, preservation, and appreciation of Aiken's architectural heritage. In light of this mission, we are concerned that adverse conditions at the hotel could lead to further deterioration while its ultimate fate is being decided, and we want to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to maintain the hotel's integrity in the interim.

Specifically, I would like to request that the AMDC take the following actions:

- Ensure that the building is secured against unauthorized intruders at all times. On Monday July 18, I noted that the gate in the rear chain link fence was wide open with no one in sight, allowing ready access to the rear doors of the building.
- Ensure that hatches and other access points on the roof are closed and sealed and that rainwater drainage channels on the roof are clear to minimize further water damage of the interior.
- Enlist the services of an engineer to identify other protective measures that might be appropriate. I offer the support of the HAF in funding such an effort.
- Establish a monthly schedule to inspect protective measures and certify that they continue to be in place.
- Given the absence of fire suppression systems, clarify the means by which a fire watch will be maintained and alarms checked. This item is of particular concern given the potential impact on surrounding structures if there were to be a fire.
- Remove debris around the exterior of the building both for safety and to improve the general character of the area.

These actions would be especially prudent in light of the fact that there is virtually no insurance for the hotel. Please let me know your plans going forward regarding maintenance of the Hotel Aiken. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Johnson".

Linda Johnson, President
509-430-5297
Linders_j@hotmail.com

Cc: The Honorable Rick Osbon, Mayor
Mr. Tim O'Briant, Economic Development Director
Mr. John Boyette, Editor, *Aiken Standard*
Ms. Lucy Knowles, President, Green Boundary Foundation