From: **The Butlers** <patchdevil@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 23, 2026 at 11:47AM
Subject: Upcoming Reynard Cross HPC vote
To: Sydney Zulich <sydney.zulich@bloomington.in.gov>, David Rollo <daverollo2011@yahoo.com>, Courtney Daily <courtney.daily@bloomington.in.gov>, Andy Ruff <andyjruff@yahoo.com>, hopi.stosberg@bloomington.in.gov <hopi.stosberg@bloomington.in.gov>, Kate Rosenbarger <kate.rosenbarger@bloomington.in.gov>, isak.asare@bloomington.in.gov <isak.asare@bloomington.in.gov>, matt.flaherty@bloomington.in.gov <matt.flaherty@bloomington.in.gov>, Isabel Piedmont-Smith <piedmoni@bloomington.in.gov>

Dear council members,

I am writing this in regards to the upcoming vote about the removal of Reynard Cross from the Historic Preservation Commission. My name is John Butler and I am the new chair of the HPC. I have met you all before and know that you are thoughtful people so I thought I would take the time to reach out to you about this issue. I strongly believe that the removal of Mr. Cross would be a mistake because it is not needed, is not justified and is a waste of your and the city's resources.

The June 28th meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was an aberration. It was poorly run and mistakes were made by myself, other members, the former chair and the vice chair. In several instances Robert's Rules were violated. Mr. Cross was not amongst those of us who made errors. Had the HPC been able to admit those errors, and then address them, none of this would have come to pass. But that did not happen. Mr. Cross has doggedly tried to get the commission to acknowledge the breaches of Robert's Rules and in doing so has been accused of being disruptive. While some of the subsequent meetings were more stressful than normal and Mr. Cross was strident in his attempts to get these failures addressed, at no point was Mr. Cross's conduct truly worthy of dismissal. Nor do I believe that Mr. Cross has violated Robert's Rules.

I am not sure why this issue was escalated to the city council, but that was a mistake. Furthermore, nearly every step of the removal process has been so poorly done that I have serious doubts that Mr. Cross has received due process. To vote to remove him at this point would just compound the errors.

Mr. Cross has been a valued member of this commission for six years and I see no reason why he can not be a valued member going forward. I would love to have Mr. Cross on this commission so that he can bring his experience and knowledge of historic preservation and Robert's Rules to our discussions. I also think it would be healthy for

the commission to retain Mr. Cross because it protects the voice of dissent. It would be a chilling message to send to the HPC that being a dissenting member could result in removal. To be clear, I do not condone the mistreatment of any commissioner, nor do I condone a stressful or contentious environment. Going forward I do not forsee having any problems with Mr. Cross and I hope that the HPC will be a more pleasant place.

Finally, I would like to address a mischaracterization that the city clerk made about Mr. Cross affecting HPC attendance. This is not the case. We are down multiple members and are operating on a skeleton crew. One member had to resign because they moved outside city limits. One member had to resign because they are on sabbatical in Texas and one member resigned because they had increasing work commitments. To blame all these resignations on Mr. Cross is simply not true.

I firmly believe that this upcoming vote should be to retain Mr. Cross.

I humbly apologize to the council for my initial misunderstanding of the demo delay process that partially set all of this in motion and look forward to doing better in the future. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can more fully explain any points. My e-mail is patchdevil@yahoo.com and my phone number is 812-606-4530.

Thank You,

John Butler