July 16, 2014

To: Andre Raiford, Owner of 3962 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Mr. Raiford,

The members of the King Neighborhood Association endorse the community undertaking to preserve the building located at 3962 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The history of the building itself, as well as its status as a symbol of African-American experience in the Albina area, make it well worth preserving. Preliminary plans to include 3962 NE MLK in an African-American historic resource survey reflect the importance of this site to the community's memory, as well as its present-day experience.

From its status as the second-oldest commercial building on MLK Boulevard, to its long history of use, commercial and residential, by African-Americans, the building at 3962 NE MLK embodies a history that should be kept in living memory. Preservation of the building will permit just that to happen, and we support the community in making it happen.

We join with the Architectural Heritage Center, Oregon Black Pioneers and historic preservationist Dr. Tanya Lyn March in endorsing Teressa Raiford’s efforts to preserve the building at 3962 NE MLK and finding creative ways to keep it as a marker of part of the history of the Albina area, and a vital site for community use into the future.

Sincerely,

Margo Dobbertin, KNA Chair

Irek Wielgosz, Co-Chair

Jeff Scott, Treasurer

Leigh Rappaport, Representative-at-Large

Andrew Neerman, Representative-at-Large

Diego Giosseffi, Representative-at-Large

Eileen Kennedy, Representative-at-Large

Nick LaRue, Representative-at-Large

King Neighborhood Association - 4815 NE 7th, Portland OR 97211 - info@kingneighborhood.org