

November 5, 2020

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

City of Chicago

Chicago City Hall

121 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Re: The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House, 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks,

Preservation Chicago, fully and unequivocally supports the Final Landmark Recommendation for the Chicago Landmark Designation of The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House, located at 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, in the West Woodlawn Community of Chicago.

We were extremely proud to assist in the preparation of research and documents for this Chicago Landmark Designation, and to bring attention to this home, which has been a site of pilgrimage to so many. We are hopeful that the recognition of this important site, will be a further reminder of its history and link to the Till Family, the tragic story of Emmett Till—a 14 year-old child caught in a nightmare of events in Mississippi, and remembering the courage of his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley “to never forget.” And her efforts to share with the world, the brutal injustices of our society—and to work towards a better nation and equality for all people.

We along with members of the Till Family, Alderwoman Taylor, Members of the West Woodlawn, Woodlawn, Hyde Park and the Preservation Community, along with the new owner, Blacks in Green-BIG and Naomi Davis, all support the designation of this home—belonging to Emmett Till, Mamie Till-Mobley and their family, and noting its important history and link to the national Civil Rights Movement.

We are also inspired by this Landmark Designation and the proposed vision and plans of the new owner for this building, to further ensure its preservation and its story, well into the future. We are hoping that the Adopt-a-Landmark program, and other incentives may be applied to help preserve this important building and site.

We are also hopeful that other sites, of cultural and historical importance, as well as those of architectural significance or of great architectural character in the Woodlawn and West Woodlawn Community, can be preserved. These include two cornerstone buildings--The Washington Park National Bank Building, located at 6300 S. Cottage Grove Avenue and the Washington Park Substation, located at 6141 S. Prairie Avenue. These two historic structures could become a major component of the INVEST

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South/West program, with the City's involvement. Both of these buildings should be considered for Chicago Landmark Designation in the near future, as they meet criteria for designation and were once the important cornerstones of the community. Both buildings are in disrepair and in danger of demolition, and we need the support of the City to ensure their reuse and protection.

Thank you for your consideration of support of The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House and Home as a Designated Chicago Landmark. This is just the right time in history to finally recognize this building.

Sincerely,

Ward Miller

Ward Miller, Executive Director

Preservation Chicago