

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE CHAIR

- Finance and Personnel Committee

MEMBER

- Licenses Committee
- Public Safety and Health Committee
- Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee
- National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- Milwaukee Continuum of Care
- Ethics Advisory Committee – Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin



CHANTIA LEWIS
ALDERWOMAN, 9TH DISTRICT

Important day for the future of Northridge property

Statement of Alderwoman Chantia Lewis April 11, 2019

Today the City of Milwaukee issued a raze or restore order to the owner of the former Northridge Mall building – a move that will lead to the removal of the long-vacant structure. This action was long overdue and was pushed forward at my urging, and I am pleased that we will soon say ‘farewell’ to this hulking eyesore.

The Chinese company that owns the building has refused to secure the building or make repairs, and since 2017 we have seen repeated trespassing and vandalism there. Thieves have stripped the HVAC and plumbing from the building, and it has become a target for graffiti vandals and – in some cases – homeless squatters.

In other words, the building has become a nuisance that threatens the health and safety of the entire surrounding area.

According to the Department of Neighborhood Services, it has been determined that the cost to repair the building exceeds 50 percent of the assessed value of the improvements divided by the ratio of the assessed value to the recommended value as last published by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue for the City of Milwaukee, that such repairs are presumed unreasonable, and therefore, the building must be razed and removed.

For the past two and a half years I have been working to connect developers and investors with the owner of the building, but they refuse to entertain viable proposals that could lead to a better use of the site. This is unacceptable and today we took the necessary step of forcing the demolition of the building.

Today is a good day and I look forward to eventually seeing the former Northridge site be reborn and become a development that my district and the entire city can be proud of.

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