FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

November 5, 2026

City Clerk Jim Owczarski
(414) 286-2221

Beware scam targeting applicants before the Historic Preservation Commission

Applicants with business before the Historic Preservation Commission are being targeted by scammers trying to get them to pay a fake city fee, and **City Clerk Jim Owczarski** is warning potential victims to be on alert.

Mr. Owczarski said someone is using public facing data and links, as well as the public agenda for Historic Preservation Commission meetings to target applicants to pay a non-existent fee for their bid for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA).

"The targeted victims are receiving a bogus letter that appears to come from the HPC, asking them to remit payment for their CoA application," he said. "There's only one problem: The HPC does not charge such a fee, and never has."

"If you receive a letter and an invoice to pay such an application fee, it's not real, so please discard it," Mr. Owczarski said. "Also, HPC staff will always only communicate using emails that end in '*@milwaukee.gov*,' so if you receive an email without that ending, it's fake and not from our staff."

The Historic Preservation Commission administers Milwaukee's 1981 historic preservation ordinance, which offers legal protection for buildings or sites declared historic by the Common Council.

Anyone with questions about the HPC can go online at https://city.milwaukee.gov/cityclerk/hpc or call (414) 286-5722.

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