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Historic Landmarks Commission
City of Portland
1900 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201

Re: Urgent Request to Intervene in Demolition of Historic Park Blocks Residence Hall

Dear HLC:

I am writing to urgently request your intervention in Portland State University's recent decision to file a 120-day demolition permit for the two historic 1930s residence halls located on the Portland Park Blocks. These buildings are essential contributors to the historical and cultural significance of the Park Blocks and are integral to the architectural heritage of Portland.

As a former resident of the Cultural District, and historic preservation advocate for over thirty years, I am deeply concerned about the potential losses of these wonderful buildings—designed by some of Oregon's finest architects. It is well-known in the building industry that it is much less expensive to renovate and rehabilitate historic structures, than to demolish and rebuild. Saving these structures is the responsible thing to do. At a time when PSU is facing financial difficulties, demolishing irreplaceable historic structures to make way for new housing is not only an avoidable mistake but also a costly and environmentally damaging one. There are already vacant and available parcels of land where PSU could build housing without erasing our city's architectural heritage. The environmental consequences of such a demolition, particularly the carbon emissions associated with construction waste, cannot be overlooked.

The potential demolition of these buildings would result in an irreversible loss of a key piece of Portland's history and diminish the integrity of one of the city's most cherished

public spaces. As a local public official, I believe it is critical that you help ensure the preservation of these historic resources and intervene before this unnecessary and short-sighted action takes place.

I respectfully urge you to support preservation alternatives, such as retrofitting the existing residence halls to meet the university's housing needs. This approach would allow the university to retain the historical value of these buildings while meeting modern housing demands in an environmentally responsible manner.

Furthermore, I ask that you work with the Landmarks Commission, the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability, and other city stakeholders to prevent the demolition from moving forward and encourage PSU to consider preservation efforts that align with Portland's commitment to sustainability and historic preservation.

Please take action to protect Portland's architectural heritage and ensure that the Park Blocks residence halls remain a vital part of our city for future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your support in preserving our community's history and future.

Sincerely,



Alexander Krach