

From: Holly Hansen <luckiestmom11@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 3:11 PM
To: Planning Department
Subject: RE: HRC-14-142 Public Comment

November 12, 2014

Public Hearing
November 13, 2014
Subject: Historic Resources Commission HRC-14-142

Re: HRC-14-142 For Possible Action: To approve a request from Phillip Hersey to install roof-mounted solar panels on property zoned Single Family 6,000 (SF6), located at 700 W. Telegraph Street, APN 003-244-02. (Susan Dorr Pansky)

Staff Summary: This is a request for the installation of a solar electric array approximately 10.25 feet by 27.3 feet on the southernmost roof closest to W. Telegraph Street and facing Mountain Street.

Dear Historic Resources Commissioners:

Thank you for continuing the long-held desire of Carson City to preserve and protect the historical integrity and beauty of its capitol city and historic west side. Your efforts are greatly respected and appreciated.

As homeowners, we understand Mr. Hersey's desire to make his home energy cost efficient. We are hopeful this can be achieved in the most discreet possible manner. A manner in which Mr. Hersey's desire to cut expenses are accomplished, while preserving the value and beauty of his historic home and the district's, as well. Solar panels may be a viable choice in reducing energy costs, but unfortunately, the panels reduce the aesthetic quality of a home and area. To date, the solar industry has not had success in reducing the solar panel's widely held reputation of being an eyesore. We believe in the solar industry and feel confident that they will rectify this issue. However, when considering the aesthetic and historical importance of this area one must recognize that it is still problematic

My husband and I are owners of a historic home in Carson City's west side historic district, which is in close proximity to the applicant, Phillip Hersey's home. As owners of property in the vicinity of the applicant, we have received an Official Notice of Public Hearing regarding Mr. Hersey's request of approval to install roof-mounted solar panels on his home and have been invited to submit comments relative to this matter to the Historic Resources Committee. We understand that it is Mr. Hersey's prerogative to consider solar panels as a means to reduce energy costs, however we do not think this should supercede his responsibility and honor to maintain this incredible historic area.

The section of roof where Mr. Hersey proposes to install 10.25 feet by 27.3 feet of solar panels faces Mountain Street and would be highly visible from the street, sidewalk, and neighboring properties. Mountain Street is also home to the Governor's Mansion, just three doors down, which makes it a high-profile area. The proposed roof-mounted solar panels would face the Governor's Mansion and would be on display to the numerous residents and guests who enjoy our beautiful historic district.

Alas all is not lost, installing the solar panels on a section of roof not so highly visible from the street might be worth considering. It would be a shame to see Mr. Hersey's beautiful and historically significant home compromised by the appearance of solar panels. Mr. Hersey has a lovely home in our historic district. He is a long-time resident and valued neighbor. I'm sure Mr. Hersey very well understands the benefit of preserving the integrity of his wonderful historic home, as well as the need to preserve our beautiful neighborhood. We live in a very special place; I hope we can all work together to protect what we have here.

As community members we greatly appreciate the opportunity to express our opinions and know what a difficult decision this can be. Thank you for your continued efforts in the stewardship of our historical district.

Respectfully yours,

Cliff and Holly Hansen
406 Mountain Street
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Carson City Historic District