



MORRIS BROWN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE "FIRST CHURCH" OF THE SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
SERVING CHRIST AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1866

13 MORRIS STREET • CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-6108
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The Reverend Juenarrl Keith, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Joseph A. Darby, Senior Pastor

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March 26, 2012

To the Board of Architectural Review:

Please accept this as a letter of concerned opposition to the plans for Morris Square Phase B. Our particular concerns are:

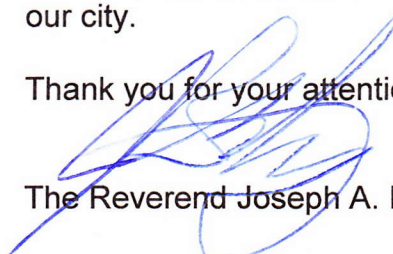
1. The plans, which include the relocation of a historic house of faith with particular significance in the African-American community, would totally eradicate Dereef Park and the surrounding historical area.
2. The plans would complete the obliteration of what was once a thriving African-American business and community corridor that still lives in the memories of many of those in our congregation.

It's my understanding that the plan is to relocate the house of worship and Park, which I assume is an effort at what is called "mitigation" when it comes to African-American historical and cultural sites and communities. I find that to be a particularly odious practice, since "mitigation" usually comes down to a minimal nod to hopefully placate the community.

I've been a Charleston resident since 1998 and have never seen a similar relocation proposal for any site of significance beyond the African-American community. My guess is that if a proposal were brought to you to fill in a portion of Colonial Lake for residential development, it would probably and rightfully be rejected, since the park is a jewel in our City.

Bear that in mind when you decide what to do with another community and park that may not be as visible or have an many defenders, but is no less of a jewel in our city.

Thank you for your attention,


The Reverend Joseph A. Darby