



Mayor & Council

OCT 04 2023

Per LT

Dear members of the Chestertown Historic Commission,

We are writing to strongly endorse the efforts to replace the current Armory with a hotel/conference center. As difficult as the decision may be, we fully support the removal of the current building and the proposed development on the site. We recognize that no one relishes the destruction of an historic building, especially when it represents the efforts of our veterans. We also realize that there are situations where it is required.

This is not an easy project under the best conditions. The building site is small, making designing a hotel/conference center with sufficient rooms and adequate parking a challenge. Add in the complexity of including the Armory in the mix, it is likely that even with their intense desire to bring a beautiful conference center and boutique hotel to Chestertown, the current development group will be forced to move on.

We would lose the best (and likely only) partners we could have for this endeavor, as they have a knowledge and love for Chestertown, experience in the hotel business, and a reasonable chance of raising the funds needed to succeed. It is hard to imagine another group will decide to step into this battle to try to make it work.

When the choices are either a permanently decaying building with major issues, or a transformational asset for the community, we fully support the latter. We also support the proposals to honor the history of the building in every way possible, and to keep the memories alive for all to see.

Regards,

Bryan Matthews

Executive Director, Kent Forward

“Enhancing the educational, economic and social well-being of Kent County.”

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