



The future stability and vitality of Cleveland's National Landmark, Shaker Square, is hanging in limbo due to lack of unified and decisive action to secure this essential asset. Retired Mayor Frank G. Jackson and current Council President Blaine Griffin proposed a dynamic solution embodied in Ord # 1038-2021. This ordinance will allow the city to finance the purchase of this asset from foreclosure. In no way would this solution be taking money from other programs, as the city's financing will be debt, and only some of the debt can be forgiven. The ordinance directs the creation of a non-profit owner group made up of the local community development organization, Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. and the nationally recognized non-profit organization, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP). CNP is the developer of the Saint Luke's block including the former hospital, CMSD School, Harvey Rice, and public library, Harvey Rice.

With the public funding and the talent of the non-profit owner group, a private sector management group will be contracted to carry out the full array of real estate functions.

Over the last several years activists with the Shaker Square Alliance have been working to tackle the rapid and extreme decline in multi-family properties, including several abandoned and condemned buildings. The Shaker Square area has been ravaged by real estate speculators, buying, trading, flipping and abandoning once highly valued properties. This degree of plunder is an indicator of the risks that exist to Shaker Square. Stabilization and revitalization are essential for the health of the historic square and the surrounding residential and commercial properties.

**The Morelands Group supports the initiative to save the square with Ord # 1038-2021 and urges action by the Shaker Square Alliance at the earliest possible time.**

[Adopted by the Morelands Group, January 4, 2022](#)