

HAVING A VOICE | *An introduction to local civics*

Letter to Anytown City Council

Anytown, Wisconsin

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

I am the President of the Anytown Historical Society. The Society's Mission is to promote an understanding of the history of Anytown by collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting that history and its relationship to the region, and nation beyond, to audiences of all ages and interests. The Society recently became aware that the City Council may soon be considering a proposal to allow the old elementary school building to be turned into a youth center. Although the Society is certainly not opposed to programs for our youth, we are concerned that this project may not be the best way to proceed.

For some time the Society has had among its many goals the idea to have the school building designated as a historical landmark. The Society also hopes to see the building restored and used as a museum and as the home for the historical society offices. Plans are to enlist the help of many prominent former students of the school to assist in fundraising efforts to purchase the building and restore it. The school has many prominent graduates that have been enlisted by the historical society to help them in their efforts, including a well known professional basketball player and former astronaut.

In addition to my role with the Historical Society, I am a former student at the school. I think it would be a tremendous disservice to the former students, teachers, and staff members if the building were not preserved. It is a part of the history of our community and in danger of being lost if this project proceeds as planned. We urge the City Council not to approve this plan.

Sincerely,

Mary Martin, President

Anytown Historical Society

Cc: Anytown Gazette