

June 18, 2006

To: Mayor Gary Becker  
City Council

From: Alderman Keith Fair, 1<sup>st</sup> District Alderman

It has been brought to my attention that it is the intentions of the Journal Times to tear down the historic Fire Station #5. After review of Resolution No. 6328 I have some concerns as to the compliance of the conditional use permit. I respectfully request for this item to be referred to the proper committee for compliance review.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, in section 29 of the Council minutes, the City Council voted to approve a request by Richard Johnston of the Journal Times seeking an amendment to a conditional use permit for a printing and publishing facility to expand operations at 212 & 300 Fourth Street upon certain conditions.

One of those conditions was:

“c. That the Journal Times take all steps reasonably possible to preserve and maintain the existing facility,” referring to the landmark historic Fire Station #5. We are asking to see documentation of due diligence in satisfying this condition. Initial analysis by an independent architect has demonstrated more than one reasonable alternative providing the required loading ramp with additional parking, while preserving the landmark building. The acceptable source for analyzing reasonable alternatives to save the station should be from outside architectural-engineering firms, not under contract or connected with the Journal Times or other interested parties.

This beautiful fire station building is too important to downtown Racine and the hearts and minds of generations of residents and visitors to allow anything less than complete compliance with the conditions of the Council's approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Fair 1<sup>st</sup> District Alderman