

City of Frostburg

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> Lydia Claar Deputy Interim Administrator

To: Historic District Commission From: Hayden Lindsey, Acting City Administrator, City Engineer, and Director of the Frostburg Department of Public Works Subject: 86 E. Main Street (known as the Nickel Building or Au Petit Paris) Date: May 2, 2025

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to provide an update regarding the Au Petit building in the City of Frostburg.

Following multiple thorough inspections, I have determined that the structure of the Nickel Building, located at 86 E. Main Street, is unsafe. After conducting several site visits and engaging in multiple in-depth conversations with the property owners and their contracted engineers, I have concluded that structural repairs are not feasible due to the significant safety risks associated with the building's current condition. I have communicated this decision to the Mayor and the City Council, and we have collectively agreed to proceed with the immediate demolition of the building.

The City of Frostburg will oversee the demolition, which will be conducted at the property owner's expense. The current plan for the site includes the creation of a Main Street "pocket park," which will be situated adjacent to the sidewalk. The pocket park, approximately 12 feet wide and extending along the length of the property between the Baker Babes building and the All State Building, will serve as an public space. A screening wall, constructed in compliance with the Frostburg Zoning Ordinance and according to the appropriate Historic Preservation Guidelines, will be installed to delineate the remainder of the lot. The City of Frostburg will assume responsibility for the maintenance of the pocket park.

Efforts will be made to preserve select elements of the building for potential incorporation into the pocket park, although this will be contingent on feasibility.

I will be present at the Historic District meeting on May 12 to address any questions or concerns you may have regarding this project.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.