



## PRESERVATION Louisville

PRESS RELEASE  
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For Immediate Release  
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### ***Statement about the agreement between the city of Louisville and developer Todd Blue allowing for the demolition of buildings along historic Whiskey Row***

Preservation Louisville is extremely disappointed to learn that the city of Louisville has apparently come to an agreement with developer Todd Blue which would allow him to demolish seven buildings on Louisville's historic Whiskey Row, all of which are local landmarks and all of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Preservation Louisville is preparing to take whatever action is possible to protect our heritage. However, until the city's agreement is provided to the public, it is not clear what that action might be.

As recently as last June, the city's staff reported that these buildings could be saved. If there was new information on the buildings' condition, it has not been shared with the public. Whatever their condition, it is obvious that their deterioration is the responsibility of their owner. Preservationists have been warning the city for many years that they were being neglected. The proposed agreement appears to reward this neglect.

The buildings along Whiskey Row from 101 to 119 West Main were first identified as historic resources during a comprehensive survey of downtown Louisville's central business district in 1976. The Waterfront Development Corporation has included them in its 20-year master plan for redevelopment. In fact, Waterfront Development Corporation President David Karem observed in this morning's *Courier-Journal*, that he "envisioned the preservation of (the buildings) as a very important historic component of the waterfront."

These buildings have been included on "Louisville's Most Endangered" lists for more than two decades, pre-dating the existence of Preservation Louisville, which named them to its first "most endangered" list in 2009.

As of this morning we still have not seen the agreed order reached between the city and Cobalt Ventures, so until that time we still don't understand all the ramifications for this site. Last summer during the Landmark process more than 1,000 people in this community signed petitions asking that there be public dialogue about the future of the buildings along Whiskey Row. This settlement precludes public involvement in their future and we are shocked by this turn of events.

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As Metro Louisville's citywide non-profit historic preservation organization, **Preservation Louisville** works in partnership with local, state and national organizations to promote the preservation of our community's historic resources through education and advocacy. Preservation Louisville also provides education, technical information and resources. For more information, [www.preservationlouisville.org](http://www.preservationlouisville.org).